HALESOWEN
CHRONICLE

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Stan's fans

Villa captain's bravery is marked by charity match

Page 5



Bank on pupils

Youngsters set up their own financial institute

Page 13



Family Yeltz

Father and son honoured for loyalty to their team

Page 40



TRADERS FACING PAYOUT BATTLE

by Heather Large

TRADERS in Halesowen now face a battle for compensation after the removal of traffic lights means the end of seven months of delays misery.

Traders are now seeking compensation towards lost takings following the completion of the £500,000 project in Coombs Road and Gorsty Hill Road. The roads were made one-way in April while South Staffs Water and National Grid carried out the work.

They were reopened at the end of October but four-way temporary lights had remained in place at the junction of Coombs Road, Haden Hill Road, Dudley Road and Furnace Hill until they were taken down this week.

Business owners had complained that customers were being put off by the heavy traffic caused by the one-way systems and the temporary lights.

But Stephanie Cox, landlady of the Bell and Bear pub in Gorsty Hill Road, said trade was now starting to pick up again following the completion of the work, which had seen her lose up to £1,500 a week.

"Now the lights have gone, it will help. People won't have to wait so long in traffic. I am applying for compensation, but it will not make up for what I have lost," she added.

Compensation

Paul Howard who runs Our Plaice fish and chip shop in Dudley Road says he has lost around £85,000 since the work started. He has now a lodged a claim for compensation from National Grid.

"It was a long time to have such disruption. Our turnover had been up between Christmas and Easter and then they started the work and our takings dipped. I am very pleased the lights have gone now and hopefully we can get back to normal," he said.

The four-way temporary lights had remained at the junction of Coombs Road, Haden Hill Road, Dudley Road and Furnace Hill after the roads had been reopened to finish off the work, but drivers have faced delays during rush hour and peak traffic times.

National Grid spokeswoman Jane Taylor said she believed all of the work had now been completed.

She added: "All of the traders have received information packs about how to apply for compensation for lost trade. They are determined on a case by case basis."

Mother in tribute to heroes of fire rescue

A MOTHER-of-three has paid tribute to neighbours who helped save the lives of her children following a fire at their home in Halesowen.

Catherine Keenan Williams also praised members of the community who have stepped in to provide children's clothes and raise money in the aftermath of the fierce fire.

The 36-year-old said she was still living a "nightmare" as she relived the moments she was helped from her home along with her children Caitlin, aged five and three-year-old Alex.

Her eldest son Samuel, seven, was staying at her mother Elizabeth's house nearby when the fire took hold at around 1am last Thursday.

Catherine and her two children were rescued at the house in Elizabeth Road by neighbours Dave and Josh Burford, who are window cleaners. Smoke damage has left the home uninhabitable with insurers still counting the costs.

Catherine said: "The community have been absolutely fantastic and I can't thank them enough for what they have done for us all.

"Dave and Josh were wonderful and I can't believe how brave they were to help us. I'll always be grateful to them."

● Donations – page 6

Bus lane axe fall is nearer

BUS lanes in Halesowen have moved a stage closer to the axe after talks between council officials and transport bosses.

Residents and councillors have asked for the lanes in Queensway near the bus station and in Bromsgrove Road between Vine Lane and the Mucklow Hill island to be reopened to all traffic.

Halesowen Area committee voted earlier this year for proposals to reopen the lanes to all traffic.

Their recommendations were sent to Dudley Council and Centro.

Retirement village bid submitted

PLANS for a multi-million pound retirement village on the site of a former secondary school have been lodged with council chiefs.

Developer Midland Heart wants to build the complex, which would have 130 apartments, on land left vacant after Cradley High School was demolished two years ago.

The scheme would offer facilities including a gym, social bar, hair salon and computer suite.

The plans went on display at a meeting at Providence Methodist Church in Windmill Hill, Cradley earlier this week.

Residents were able to air their views on the proposals, which has sparked opposition from neighbours. There are concerns parkland will be lost as part of the scheme.

If the plans are approved, it will be the third Midland Heart extra care centre to be built in the Dudley borough and follows the opening of similar schemes in Coseley and on Russells Hall estate.

The apartments would be available to buy or rent as well as shared ownership.

Plans for a separate development of 11 private sale houses have also been submitted as part of the application lodged with Dudley Council.

The planning statement says: "All of the apartments will be designated to people over the age of 55."

Torrential rain brings flood chaos



Cars abandoned in Corngreaves Road, Halesowen after heavy rain caused floods



Water levels rising in Hawne Lane, Halesowen after the torrential rain

TORRENTIAL rain caused floods chaos, closing motorways and left a disabled woman trapped in her car in Halesowen, after being engulfed by a flash flood.

Two lorries crashed on the M5 on Wednesday, spilling diesel across the southbound carriageway. The motorway was shut completely between junction one for West Bromwich and two for Oldbury causing rush hour delays in and around Halesowen

Water from a blocked storm drain is believed to have caused the 3ft deep flood in Hawne Lane, Halesowen, at Corngreaves Bridge, next to the swollen River Stour, at about 7.15am. As fire crews came to the rescue, a disabled woman, thought to be in her late 50s and walking with sticks, was pulled from her Vauxhall Astra by her son. A man following in a Vauxhall Vectra managed to scramble free from his car and wade out of the rising water, which blocked the road.

Neither motorist was injured. Firefighters from Brierley Hill and Cradley Heath taped off the flooded area and waited for nearly two hours for Dudley and Sandwell Councils to erect "road closed" signs.

Christmas market is opposed by group

PLANS for a five-day Christmas-themed farmers and craft market in Halesowen have been unveiled – but they are being opposed by the town's chamber of trade.

Bescott Promotions wants to hold a market from December 18 to 22 and decorate the stalls with festive trimmings.

But chairman of Halesowen Chamber of Trade Steve Fitzpatrick has objected, fearing it will take trade away from the shops.

Steve Evans, of Bescott Promotions, has applied to Dudley Council for permission to hold the event.

He said: "Lots of other towns are introducing Christmas markets to help bring more people into the town centres and I think it would be good to do this in Halesowen. It would help the market traders and the townspeople."

Halesowen's street market runs every second, fourth and fifth Saturday of the month.

In a report going before Dudley Council's licensing committee on November 27, it says Mr Evans is applying to vary the terms of his street traders permit to allow him to run the one-off Christmas event.

But Mr Fitzpatrick said the chamber of trade was concerned about the affect on trade in the town centre as they would have to compete with the market during the busy shopping period.

"We feel with the way trading is in town centres throughout the country that having a market in the town would take trade away from the town's shops.

Looking for new skippers

THREE new skippers are needed to work on boats at Dudley Canal Trust.

Applicants need an MCA Boatmaster's licence. Anyone interested should email enquiries@dudleycanal trust.org.uk or write to Dudley Canal Trust, 501 Birmingham New Road, Dudley.

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NEWS

CONTENTS

Peter Rhodes	4
Letters	7
Memory Lane	10
Club News	14
Puzzle Page	29
TV Listings	25-28
Property	30-31
Motoring	32-33
Classified	34-38
Sport	39-40

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Grass cutting hit in council savings

WORK to cut grass banks, trees and hedges over the next year will be "prioritised" as Dudley Council makes £470,000 of savings.

But the council's highways chief has insisted the borough's green spaces will not become overgrown as part of the £22 million programme of cutbacks.

The authority is reducing spending on the upkeep of hedges, verges and trees – sparking fears the borough will end up littered with unkempt patches of land.

It comes after an outcry was caused two years ago when the authority stopped cutting steep grass banks to save £30,000 – but told residents they could not do the work themselves due to health and safety fears.

Residents in Wordsley living along the main A491 into Stourbridge started a campaign – but a nearby pub ended up paying for it to be cut regularly. Residents were furious when it emerged that the authority was continuing to cut grass on 30 banks outside council homes, using money from a different budget to the one that was slashed.

In February, the highways chief at the time, Patrick Harley, said grass banks across the borough would be cut once again this year.

But since then a Labour council has been voted in – and its latest budget plans have left residents unsure of which areas will be judged as "priorities".

Highways chief councillor Judy Foster said: "We will prioritise the areas most in need. The grass banks that are more at risk of attracting litter will be a priority. Also, when safety is an issue, in particular if grass is blocking the view of traffic, that will be prioritised."

Poor records could have put care patients at risk

POOR record keeping by staff at a Dudley care home could have put residents at risk, a health watchdog has found.

The Grange Hill House Residential Home, Halesowen, was found to be failing in standards of quality and management following an unannounced inspection by the Care Quality Commission.

The commission said care plans for residents were available, but claimed they were lacking important information, such as directions on treatment.

Staff were also found to have not been monitoring the amount of drink a resident had consumed over a 24-hour period and a food chart for one person over a six-day period was blank.

The report said: "We found assessments, care plans and risk assessments were available for the two people whose care we tracked. However, some of the care plans lacked important information."

Protected

It continued: "This meant people were not protected from the risk of receiving inappropriate care and treatment."

During the inspection, the care home, in Bromsgrove Road, Hunnington, was also found to not be storing residents' records securely. The home offers care and accommodation for up to 38 people with varying disabilities. It passed all other areas assessed by the commission in September.

Tony Billingham director of Carlton Care Group which owns the home, said: "We fully recognise the observations of the Care Quality Commission inspectors report and remedial measures were taken within 24 hours of notification being issued to us."

Factory in court after worker, 58, is crushed

A STEEL factory in Brierley Hill has been taken to court charged with breaching health and safety regulations after a worker was killed when an overhead crane crushed him against a pillar.

Wilfred Williams, aged 58, died as he worked 14ft above ground to repair a gantry at C Brown and Sons in Pedmore Road in May 2011.

The firm appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court for the first time last week to face two charges after the Health and Safety Executive launched court proceedings against them. C Brown and Sons is accused of breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act.

The firm is accused of contravening the Work at Height Regulations 2005 by failing "to ensure that where work was carried out at height, suitable and sufficient measures were taken to prevent, so far as is reasonably practicable, any person falling a distance liable to cause personal injury."

HSE spokeswoman Helen Clarke confirmed the case had been committed to Wolverhampton Crown Court until December 19.

A verdict of accidental death was recorded on Mr Williams.

Vintage tea party for charity



Hannah Picken, aged 20, of Brierley Hill, ready for the charity vintage tea party

VINTAGE clothes, bags and afternoon tea will be up for a grabs at a tea party to help the Alzheimer's Society.

The event, hosted by Martial Arts Concepts, Hereward Rise, Halesowen, is on December 2, 2pm-5pm, will be using vintage crockery.

Hannah Picken, aged 20, organised the event. Her grandmother, Gladys McKenzie, lost a 10-year battle with Alzheimer's in March. Miss Picken said: "It was soul-destroying to see someone deteriorate like that over such a long period of time.

"I wanted to do something nice for my family with this event and also try to help people who might suffer with Alzheimer's in the future as the charity needs fund to continue its vital work. They do a great job to help."

Vintage clothes provided by Miss Picken's Stourbridge-based design firm Gracy. Entrance will be on show. Homemade cakes will have a charge.

A tombola has prizes with Cosmopolitan magazine providing make-up, nail varnish and handbags and Sainsbury's gift cards. For information call Miss Picken on 07581 312 813.

Villagers calling to see more officers

CALLS for more police to hits the streets around a South Staffordshire village have been made following crimes including two robberies and a sexual assault.

Knife-wielding raiders threatened staff at a Spar convenience store in Kinver High Street before stealing cash and cigarettes in one incident.

It comes following a spate of attacks on Co-op convenience stores recently including Wolverhampton, Tipton, Tividale and Wombourne.

Residents and Kinver Parish Council have demanded patrols in the village to combat a criminal and anti-social behaviour.

Parish Council leader Councillor Julian Hall said members wanted assurances when meeting officers in the near future.

"We are not happy with the level of criminality in Kinver," he said.

Kinver businessman Nigel Tolley, who owns a badge-making firm in Enville Road, said residents wanted actions from officers.

Kinver Inspector Donna Gibbs said: "Kinver police station is an active police station covered by neighbourhood officers and a Pcso."

Delay hits store plans

PLANS for a multi-million supermarket have been hit by further delays as talks over proposed road access continue to hold up the scheme.

Morrisons wants to demolish its store in Stallings Lane, Kingswinford, and replace it with a 40,000sq ft one, creating 70 jobs.

Plans were lodged with Dudley Council in May but, six months on, have not been presented to the development control committee.

The earliest the scheme would now be discussed by the committee was January.

Faster net links

COUNCIL chiefs say good progress is being made on plans for faster broadband across Worcestershire.

A £3.35 million grant was awarded to Worcestershire County Council from Broadband Delivery UK, a department of central government.

The council is providing £8.5 million.

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Budget is to decide loos' fates

A FINAL decision on which public toilets in Dudley will be reopened will be made once the authority's budget has been approved next March.

It emerged last month that toilets that were controversially shut under cutbacks could be put back in use following a public outcry.

Dudley Council said last year that the eight toilet blocks in shopping centres had become outdated, often targeted by vandals and were under-used.

But the authority has now agreed to carry out a review to see if any could be reinstated. And where the blocks cannot be reopened, bosses could ask local businesses to let customers use toilets.

Councillor Judy Foster revealed the authority was looking to open "at least two" toilet blocks and had received requests from the public.

She added: "We can't make any firm commitments yet and I can't say what toilets we are looking at until the budget has been approved early next year."

Sites which went last summer included The Cross, Kingswinford and Cottage Street, Brierley Hill, Flood Street in Dudley and Halesowen Road in Netherton.

Masterclass for students

AN acclaimed concert pianist has given a masterclass in music to students at a Stourbridge school.

Margaret Fingerhut went to Old Swinford Hospital School to perform in a recital with cellist Sagi Hartov, a member of the London Mozart Trio.

The concert, held earlier this month, featured music by Beethoven, Brahms, Schumann, Chopin, Liszt and Mendelssohn. During their visit to the Black Country, the pair worked with students to hone their musical skills in a series of workshops.

Two cut from car

TWO men had to be cut from their car following a crash in Sedgley.

Fire crews removed the roof from a Vauxhall Corsa to allow paramedics to treat the injured men.

The accident, involving the Corsa and a Vauxhall Astra happened in Gospel End Street. They were taken to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Three are found guilty of killing father, 54



Victim Balbir Singh

THREE men have been found guilty of the unlawful killing of a father-of-three who died after suffering 155 injuries in a three-day ordeal.

Paramjit Johal, Inderjit Dhesi and Paramjit Singh had all denied the manslaughter of Balbir Singh, who was found dead in a dingy flat in Tividale earlier this year.

But after a seven-week trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court a jury found the three responsible.

Johal, aged 50, of Baldwin Close in Tividale, Inderjit Dhesi, 31 of Brades Road in Oldbury, and Paramjit Singh, 46, of Wallace Park Road in Kent, will be sentenced on December 14.

During the trial the court heard how Balbir had been repeatedly beaten and humiliated during a three-day ordeal. This followed a fall-out between the 54-year-old and the defendants.

His beard and moustache were shaved, his turban had been removed and he had suffered bruising and fractured ribs. Balbir's body was discovered at his home in Baldwin Close on March 5 after Johal phoned emergency services. He told the operator a person who was drunk had fallen over and died.

Giving evidence during the trial, Johal said he lied to emergency services because he was trying to protect his nephew, Dhesi.

He said Paramjit Singh was angry with Balbir Singh for having to pay his £20 debt to a shopkeeper. He told the court he tried to resuscitate Balbir using techniques he had seen on television.

The court also heard evidence from Mr Singh's widow, Parminder Kaur Kandola, who lived in India while Balbir sent money home. She said the last time she heard her husband's voice he was being tortured. Det Sgt Mick Griffiths, from the Force CID, investigated Balbir's death. Following the verdict, he said: "What led to the sustained violence has never truly been confirmed, but thankfully those responsible have finally been found guilty of this terrible crime." Johal, Dhesi and Singh were originally charged with murder but the jury returned a not guilty verdict on this.

Council can't make mind up on giving honour to Lenny

A DECISION to bestow a top civic honour on comedian Lenny Henry could be delayed further after talks to hammer out clear guidelines have so far failed to reach a resolution.

The working party of five councillors was set up last month to look at the criteria governing the Freedom of the Borough and to agree possible changes.

It followed a motion, tabled by leader of the opposition Tory group Councillor Les Jones, to defer the decision on giving the honour to the Dudley-born comedian at recent full council meeting.

by Lee Watton

The motion was carried after concerns were raised Mr Henry may not meet existing criteria.

Councillors had hoped to agree any possible changes before the next meeting of the full council, to be held later this month, so the honour could be conferred on Mr Henry.

But Councillor Jones today said the working party had failed to reach a full resolution at the present time and the matter may not be ready in time for the meeting.

If agreements have not been reached then the issue could be deferred again until a later meeting of the council.

The group aims to develop clearer guidelines which would be used in the future. Councillor Jones said: "A meeting of the working party has been held and at the moment no real resolution has been reached.

"I simply do not know if the findings will be ready in time for the next meeting of the full council later this month," added Councillor Jones.

Carefully

"All I can say is it may or may not.

"However this is an issue which needs to be looked at carefully so we have these guidelines in place for the future."

Councillor Jones said the motion and the talks were not a reflection on Mr Henry but a matter of setting out clearer guidelines.

He was nominated for his contribution to showbusiness.



Mayor and Mayoress of Dudley, Melvyn and Michelle Mottram open the refurbished Dudley Library, with Councillor Khurshid Ahmed and locality manager Sharon Whitehouse



The new layout of the library which has had a massive refurbishment

£200,000 library work is opened

A £200,000 revamp of Dudley Library has been unveiled.

Workshops, childrens' games and a talk from an artist were among the events on Saturday.

The relaunched library was officially opened by Mayor of Dudley Councillor Melvyn Mottram.

Work on the library, in St James Road, aimed to make it brighter and more welcoming.

The facility gets 5,000 visitors a week and old shelving and carpet, which had been in place for more than 40 years, was replaced following feedback from users.

Library staff have also tried to simplify the way books are stored to make them easier to find.

Councillor Mottram said: "Dudley library has been serving local people for over 100 years. The service not only attracts users and borrowers, but also tenants thinking about having the latest designs in their homes, and people seeking health advice and guidance."

There was a visit by children's book character, the Gruffalo, as well as Mehndi henna tattoos and face painting, ukulele sessions and Punch and Judy shows.

A comic and novel illustration workshop and a talk by Cradley Heath industrial artist Luke Perry.

Festive craft market

A POPULAR Christmas craft market will return to Netherton Arts Centre on November 25.

Stalls will include novelty Christmas gifts, cards, handmade goods and food. Stourbridge Lion Glass Blowing staff will hold demonstrations. Father Christmas will also make an appearance.The event will run from 11am to 4pm.

Entry to the market costs 50p which includes a ticket for the raffle to be drawn at 4pm. A few stalls are still available for hire and cost £20 for the day. Call on 01384 813943.

NEWS in brief

Preparations to fill vacant seat

PREPARATIONS to fill a vacant seat on Dudley Council are set to begin after being put on hold until after the police crime commissioner elections.

Residents will go to the polls to decide who will fill Councillor Malcolm Knowles' seat in the Wollaston and Stourbridge Town ward. Councillor Knowles, a former mayor of Dudley, died in October aged 79. Chief executive of Dudley Council John Polychronakis said the authority was now preparing a notice of vacancy.

Revamped M&S opens at centre

A REVAMPED Marks & Spencer store has been opened at Dudley's Merry Hill shopping centre.

The store's cafe is now one third larger and the clothes department has been rearranged to clearly separate different ranges.

The home department now includes digital screens for customers to browse products. Store manager, Mark Brown, and staff member Gwyn Morton, who has worked for Marks & Spencer for 44 years, declared the store open.

Woman is facing 10 fraud charges

A WOMAN has appeared in court to face 10 benefit fraud charges.

Denise Lomas, aged 57, of Maple Road, Dudley, allegedly lied to Dudley Council to get housing and council tax benefit.

Lomas has not yet entered pleas to the charges.

Magistrates adjourned the case until December 13 at the request of council solicitor Neelam Bangar.

Charity shopping event at golf club

A BEWDLEY golf club will host a charity shopping event for local business ladies.

The Wyre Forest Women in Business group will hold their annual Christmas shopping evening on Wednesday, November 28 at Wharton Park Golf Club.

Small businesses will be selling products.

Comedy show

BLACK Country performers Fizzog are staging a comedy show at Ellowes Hall School, Dudley on November 27.

Tickets are £10. Call 07973 421714.

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CONFUSED about Nick Clegg's plans to reform the workplace? So you should be. The deputy prime minister's pledge to change the system has been variously reported as giving all employees "the right to flexible working" or "the right to demand flexible working."

In fact, Clegg talked in vague terms about flexibility, care-giving and sharing the job of raising a child. But the official Lib-Dem website merely promises "to extend the right to request flexible working to all employees."

The right to request? Don't we have that already? Or has a conversation between two citizens (boss and employee) been abolished while I was sleeping?

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

TALKING of things happening when your back is turned, how in God's name did we reach the stage where a teenager is arrested and put in the cells in Kent for setting fire to a remembrance poppy on Facebook?

Linford House, aged 19, was stupid and offensive but he incited no violence and there was no breach of the peace. Whatever happened to Voltaire's magnificent definition of free speech: "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it"?

The first time I heard those words they were spoken by a corporal of the Royal Fusiliers. He was busy stripping a machine gun and explaining to me his motivation in joining the British Army. Remembrance means nothing if we forget that our war dead perished to protect a free society, not a state where we arrest silly boys under something called the Malicious Communication Act. Sometimes in this country you'd think that Hitler had won.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Man jailed for sword attack on ex after row

A MAN has been jailed for attacking his ex-girlfriend with a sword when their drunken New Year's Eve celebrations ended in violence.

Wayne Cooper had been drinking with his then partner at her Brierley Hill home to see-in 2012 when a heated row broke out and he slashed her across the face with a weapon he had grabbed from the hallway.

The 51-year-old victim suffered a fractured eye socket and needed plastic surgery. Cooper, aged 50, from Birchills, then went into hiding. However, he was found by police in Walsall six months after the attack.

He was jailed for five years at Wolverhampton Crown Court after admitting grievous bodily harm.

Superintendent Clare Cowley said: "This was an extreme case but the build up to it, a scenario where excess alcohol leads to an argument and assault, typifies many domestic abuse incidents over the Christmas and New Year period."

West Midlands Police said Cooper began rowing with his ex-girlfriend following a family dispute which came to a head on New Year's Eve.

His victim left to go to bed just after midnight and was on the phone when Cooper barged in, snatched the handset and swung the sword down across the side of her face. He fled the home, in his ex's car, and left her locked in the house.

Plans are on display

LONG-term plans for the revamp of Halesowen are set to be submitted to the Secretary of State if they are approved by council chiefs.

Members of the public can give their views on the Halesowen Area Action Plan until December 12.

But a full meeting of Dudley Council will discuss the document on November 26. If it is approved, it will be sent on to the Government once residents' opinions have been taken into account.

The plan aims to help guide investment and identify where shops, homes and leisure developments will be located.

More than 200 surplus parking spaces have been identified, and it is hoped that some could make way for shops and businesses.

Suggested sites include office block Trinity Point and the High Street car park.

Pupils spot on for Pudsey



Left to right, back, Owen Dawson, aged four, Alexia Haddleton, five, and Isobelle Hall, three. Middle Zainab Kaid, three, Pudsey, and Rio-Aziz Halford, four. Front Maddison Tisdale, four, and Jacob Daniels, five

CHILDREN at Halesowen CE Primary School were dressed up in spotty clothes to mark Children in Need.

Youngsters, who were visited by Pudsey Bear, have raised around £200 for the appeal.

Deputy headteacher Steve Payne said that the school's 196 pupils took part in a range of games and other fun activities.

They also brought in donations for Children in Need.

He said: "Pudsey came in for assembly and said 'hello' to all of the children, who were dressed in spotty clothes.

"He then spent the morning with our reception classes doing different activities.

"The visit was organised as part of a business link with Asda.

"The day went very well and all of the pupils enjoyed themselves"

Council is looking to counter proposals

DUDLEY Council has agreed to look at counter proposals which could be submitted against controversial plans to change parliamentary constituencies in the borough.

The Boundary Commission for England announced the scheme to alter boundaries across the UK to reduce the number of constituencies from 650 to 600.

Under current plans, some of the wards presently in the Dudley North, Dudley South and West Bromwich West would be grouped into a new Dudley East and Oldbury constituency.

Stourbridge will take in the Wordsley and Brierley Hill wards from the present Dudley South to form the Stourbridge and Dudley constituency.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis will retain its name and remain largely unaltered – although it will take on the Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood wards.

Court no-show

A MAN accused of fly-tipping at a church failed to attend court.

Roy Carter, aged 23, of Freeland Grove, Kingswinford, is accused of dumping building materials and household items on the land at St Mary's Church in Oldswinford on December 23 last year.

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Thousands secured for beauty spot

A GRANT worth tens of thousands of pounds has been secured to help improve a Black Country beauty spot.

The Friends of Thimblemill Brook have been awarded the £20,000 cash boost to spruce up Thimblemill Brook, which runs through parts of Smethwick and Oldbury.

The money has come from a donation from the Ibstock Cory Trust. Cash will be spent on carrying out activities which will help to improve both the appearance of the area as well as its wildlife.

Moira Black, treasurer of the friends group, said: "Many local people complain that they can't actually see the brook because the wooded banks are too dense.

"We'll be carrying out selective thinning in a number of areas, not only to improve the quality of the woodland, but also to help people get better access to the brook."

The Friends of Thimblemill Brook are in the process of applying for further funding. They hope to receive £50,000 from the Community Spaces Big Lottery Fund. The group are due to find out whether they have been awarded the grant early next year.

Ghostly tour

A GHOST tour of Dudley takes place on November 28 from 8pm. The tour starts in the Station Hotel, Castle Hill. Tickets are £8 from 01384 812812.

Battling Stan's fans turn out to support his charity match

ASTON Villa captain Stiliyan Petrov beamed with pride as thousands turned out to a charity football match in his honour in Halesowen as he battles leukaemia. Fans gave him a rapturous welcome as he arrived at the home of Halesowen Town football club with his family for the charity match.

The 33-year-old is recovering after being diagnosed with leukaemia in March but managed to attend the match at the Grove stadium and watch the game. The match on Sunday saw a team made up of friends of the footballer, known affectionately by the Villa faithful as Stan, take on a team of Aston Villa legends.

The two teams were Villa Lions & Legends and the Stiliyan Petrov XI.

Among the players taking part were Steve Staunton, Gordon Cowans and Lee Hendrie with former teammate Gareth Barry watching from the stands.

Villa legend Gary Shaw said: "Everyone just wishes the best for him.

"We went for a fun day out and a game of football but behind it there was an even more important reason of support."

Attracted

A match day raffle and auction of football memorabilia was also held during the fixture, which attracted around 3,000 people, to boost the fund.

Dean Dodds, a friend of the Villa players and who organised the game and captained the Stiliyan Petrov XI said support had come from the footballing world including former Villa and Baggies boss Ron Atkinson. Since the shock news of Petrov's diagnosis, fans and Villa staff have been busy raising money on his behalf.

Around £10,000 was raised for charity on the day with organisers saying cash was still being counted up.

Petrov, who joined Villa from Celtic for £6.5 million in 2006, underwent chemotherapy when the cancer was diagnosed forcing him to the sidelines. But the club have kept him on the squad list for this season and fans still cheer for him at every game.

Big day proves a huge success

MORE than 3,000 spectators, including Premier League stars Ashley Young and Gareth Barry, turned out to support a charity football match in honour of Aston Villa captain Stiliyan Petrov as he battles leukaemia.

Halesowen Town offered up The Grove stadium to use for free on Sunday as fans had their first proper glimpse of the player since he was diagnosed.

Organiser, 38-year-old Dean Dodds of Halesowen, said: "It was a brilliant day, the weather was great for us and we were really pleased with the turnout."

The match saw a team made up of friends of the footballer, known affectionately by the Villa faithful as Stan, take on a team of Aston Villa legends. Petrov attended the match accompanied by his family and received a massive round of applause and cheers as he took his seat.

Villa legend Gary Shaw said: "The turnout was fantastic. It is a great cause and people went to a lot of effort. It shows a real depth of feeling for Stan and for what he's going through." Faye Brewer, who lives in Halesowen and is the fiancee of Mr Dodds, said: "It was an amazing effort from everyone involved." Charity events are taking place for the Villa captain to help fund research.



The teams line-up – Aston Villa Lions and Legends v Stiliyan Petrov XI – for the match



Stiliyan Petrov, with family and friends, including Gareth Barry



Gordon Cowans played



Gareth Barry meets fans, upon his arrival to watch the charity match

NEWS in brief

Pupils show their sporting prowess

TWO pupils at an Oldbury school have won regional and national competitions.

Joshua Hunter, aged 15, a pupil at Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy, has become West Midlands Tumbling Champion in the over-14s category.

His classmate Zachary Smith, also 15, is not only British Kickboxing Champion, but also came third, winning a bronze medal in the Valkenburg Kickboxing World Championships in Holland.

Joshua has been a tumbler for four years.

Stay away alert over winter bug

VISITORS have been asked to avoid visiting Kidderminster Hospital because of an outbreak of winter bug norovirus.

Staff want to limit the number of people coming into hospital wards to reduce the risk of the highly infectious illness spreading.

Chief nursing officer Helen Blanchard said: "It can be very difficult to contain the spread of this extremely contagious illness."

Christmas event planned at centre

A Christmas fair will be held on November 25 at Netherton Arts Centre, in Northfield Road, from 11am to 4pm.

Stalls will include novelty Christmas gifts, cards, handmade goods and food.

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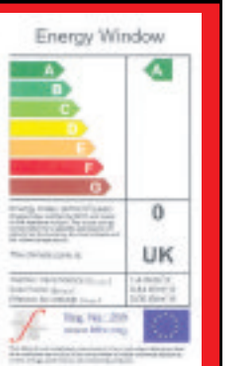
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NEWS

Donations to family after suspected arson attack

PEOPLE have donated clothes and toys to help a mother and her young children after a suspected arson attack at their home.

Catherine Keenan Williams and her son, aged four, and daughter, five, were rescued at their home in Elizabeth Road, Halesowen, by neighbours David and Josh Burford last week.

Catherine's mother, Elizabeth Keenan, said: "We want people to know how much it is appreciated.

"People have brought along toys and clothing for the children and for Catherine. Everyone has been very generous and we just want to say thank you."

She said her other grandchild, a boy, seven, was staying with them on the evening. People donated items for him as well. "We are just pleased that everyone got out of the house okay and were not hurt. We are just so thankful for that," she added.

Mr Burford and his son, both window cleaners, set up a ladder at the back window to help Catherine and her children to safety.

Fire was confined to the front door and hallway but thick smoke started to fill the house. Mr Burford smashed the glass in a window and took the boy and girl to safety before rescuing the mother.

The house remains boarded up and a police cordon is still in place .

A man, 36, was arrested on suspicion of arson with intent to endanger life.

He was released on police bail until the middle of next month.



Josh Burford, who helped rescue a mother and two children

Fruit trees are on offer

WORCESTERSHIRE County Council is offering local organic apple, pear and plum trees to residents for planting during the winter.

People can buy the fruit trees, priced from £14.50 each, from November 26 to March 15. The council's scheme is aimed at conserving the varieties, and it suggests the trees could make a unique gift. Order at www.worcest ershire.gov.uk/fruittrees

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LETTERS

Police vote a waste of money

I HAVE never not voted when requested by Government but I was certainly not going to vote for a Police and Crimes Commissioner.

Where does the great and the good think that another political appointment (for that is what it is) is necessary and will be more knowledgeable than our current, in the main, excellent Police.

This service knows what we, the public want and need and without the interference of political appointees, if only they would let them do their job?

To offer these appointees up to £100,000 per annum is disgusting to say the least. How many front line officers would that give us, for mark my words, the Police will have their budgets cut correspondingly?

How many tiers of Government do we need? Central, regional, county, parish, quangos and now PCCs. I do think it is a job for the boys and girls who have no knowledge but big egos as befits most of our MPs

Another case of interference without knowledge is the decision of the Defence Secretary to reduce the regular armed forces by up to 20,000 and replace them by beefing up the Territorial Army. I served in both arms of the services so I feel I have some knowledge of the differences in training requirements. What experience and knowledge do our great and good have? I suspect none.

We need to rein back on Government spending, but not at the expense of our Police Service or our armed services. Why not cut back on profligate spending on the size of Westminster?

REG SEGGAR
Swinforge Way
Swindon

Political rebuke for BBC was deserved

PETER Rhodes was perfectly right with his rebuke on BBC political bias, which has been going on since the last election.

The Labour Party noticeably was hardly ever criticised while Labour raised the licence fee every year in its 13 years of power. Viewers with good judgment and a fair hypothesis of news reports know it's been happening.

John Savage obviously isn't subjective to BBC's careful manipulations and his own personal rant makes no impression at all on fair-minded people.

If one watches carefully, Peter Rhodes' inference is there for all to see as important news is often put down the list to make way for minor anti-Conservative criticism. Hopefully perhaps all news will now be shown in line with importance.

BERNARD H SMITH
Bars Road

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Halesowen Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Crazy road scheme just caused chaos

AS sanity has now returned to Dudley with Parkway Road being reopened as a two-way road it is time to reflect and consider why this absolutely crazy road scheme was implemented in the first instance.

Nearly two years ago the council introduced a one-way system which caused misery to thousands of motorists who were forced into the already grid-locked Eve Hill roundabout. The residents in the streets around Grange Road were trapped by the endless queues of traffic in Grange Road during peak times as a result of the one-way closure of Parkway Road.

According to Dudley Council 27 residents living in Parkway Road signed a petition which asked for speed restrictions and the prohibition to turn right into Himley Road. No-one asked or requested that Parkway Road should be made a one-way street system but the council took it upon itself to introduce this scheme.

When the residents, who had been affected by this foolish road scheme objected and collected in excess of 400 signatures it took nearly two years to go back to its original state.

D H SPECKNER
Himley Road

Keeping theatre is a way to save cash

I CAN save DMBC loads of money.

If DMBC need to make £20m worth of cuts, why waste the best part of a million knocking down the Hippodrome, simple.

Also if the friends of Save the Hippodrome are given the chance, they intend to pay the council £475k for the Hippo in five years, that's what DMBC paid for it, that means DMBC would get their money back instead of a pile of bricks.

Then there's the jobs the Hippo will create which means money in people's pockets to spend in guess where? Dudley.

Not to mention the many thousands of theatre goers coming to Dudley instead of catching the train to London's West End.Untie the friends of the Hippodrome's hands, and they will bring money into the Dudley borough for years to come.

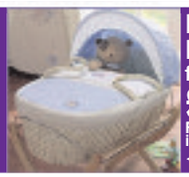
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NEWS

Raid by customs uncovers 12,000ltrs of illicit vodka

AN illicit vodka still was set up to make thousands of litres of illegal booze that was potentially dangerous if drunk, a court was told.

A raid found 12,000 litres of fake Arctic Ice vodka at the still, which would have been sold at £45 a case, producing a potential profit of up to £137,000.

Three Black Country men have admitted the attempted evasion of excise duty at Birmingham Crown Court.

The court heard the still cost around £45,000 to set up in an industrial unit at Brewery Street, Aston, Birmingham.

It was shut down by Revenue and Customs investigators two weeks after the rental agreement on the premises had been signed, prosecutor Mr Daniel White said.

He added: "It had all the equipment needed to produce and bottle Arctic Ice vodka. There were 12,000 litres of illegally produced vodka on which £137,000 duty would have been evaded. It was not suitable for human consumption."

Michael Woodlock arrived at the premises in his Mercedes with Gavin Berrow and Alex Rollason as the still was being raided on July 19 last year, the court heard.

Woodlock, aged 52, from from Greswold Street, West Bromwich, admitted being paid £400 a week to find a suitable site for the still, set it up and organise paperwork, the court heard. Berrow, 42, of Amblecote Road, Brierley Hill, had been paid £200 a time to deliver equipment while Rollason, aged 19, from Halesowen Road, Old Hill, had been an odd job man, the court heard.

All three were remanded on unconditional bail until January 18.

Fair will fund daytrips

A CHRISTMAS fair will be held at the Grange Hill House residential home in Bromsgrove Road, Halesowen, on November 24 from 10am to midday.

Hot pork sandwiches will be on sale and proceeds will help pay for residents' day trips out.

Business marks its 25th



Sara Shell and her mother Jenny Altindas mark their anniversary

LIKE many of the brides they have supplied, a Kidderminster bridal shop owner and seamstress is marking her own silver anniversary, in business, with a charity party night.

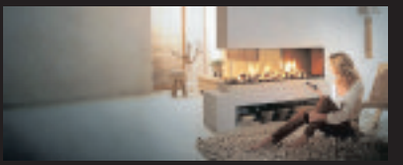
Jenny Altindas, who runs The Wedding Rooms and Jenny Lane Sewing Services, Bewdley Road, with her daughter Sara, is inviting customers from across the years to join in the celebrations on November 23.

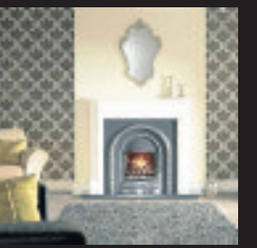
A raffle, with prizes ranging from meals out to massages, will raise money for Kemp Hospice. There will also be hairdressing and make-up demonstrations for brides-to-be and a wedding photographer will also be on site.

"We've sent out invitations to past brides and on Facebook and I'd love to catch up with how they are doing," said Mrs Altindas, who started her business at home in Kidderminster. Past brides, brides-to-be and other customers are invited to the party night at The Wedding

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NEWS

School celebrating



Ridge Primary pupil William Taylor shares what he has learned with mother Paula

A SCHOOL has been recognised for its work in getting parents more involved in their children's education.

Staff and pupils at The Ridge Primary School, Stourbridge, are celebrating after achieving a Leading Parent Partnership Award.

The school in Gregory Road, Wollaston, has been working towards the accolade for the past year and an assessment took place in October.

Workshops and open days for parents have been held at the school to get parents more involved along with special assemblies where the achievements of children were recognised. A science project was also staged involving parents working with their youngsters so they could learn together.

Headteacher Deb Hudson said the highlight had been an entry in the final report where the school was praised for its welcoming and friendly atmosphere. "The report said the school worked to ensure the role of parents was highly valued which is what we have been working towards," she said.

Dangerous driver in car chase with police jailed

A DANGEROUS driver who swerved round cars and a bus in a dramatic high-speed police chase through Halesowen has been jailed.

Indian national Verindar Singh, from Smethwick, was spotted by police officers driving at close to twice the speed limit and undertaking a vehicle in Hagley Road West. He then led a chase which saw him undertake a bus and squeeze between two stationary cars before finally hitting a traffic sign. At Wolverhampton Crown Court yesterday, Singh was jailed for six months.

by Alex Ross

The 24-year-old, of Arden Road, was disqualified from driving for 12 months.

Singh pleaded guilty to dangerous driving and using a vehicle without insurance at an earlier hearing at Dudley Magistrates' Court.

Mr Geoffrey Dann, prosecuting, said police saw Singh driving a black Vauxhall Corsa, at 12.40pm on September 28.

He said: "In front of the Corsa was was a vehicle moving at 30mph, all of a sudden the Corsa went to the inside lane and undertook the car. It was going at 51mph." He said the police then turned their lights on, but he accelerated down Mucklow Hill. Mr Dann said: "A bus was leaving a stop, the Corsa undertook it and went into the bus stop, before undertaking other vehicles.

"He then drove on to a traffic island which caused other vehicles to brake hard to avoid collision."

He added: "The driver then approached stationary cars and went though a narrow space between them, the car then lost control and hit a traffic sign."

Singh, who moved to the UK from India two years ago, was arrested.

Mr Charnjit Jutla, defending, said Singh had panicked when he saw the police sirens because he did not have a licence. He said: "He is deeply remorseful for what he had done. He accepts he could have caused serious injury." Judge Amjad Nawaz said: "This was a persistently bad piece of driving and only down to good fortune was no-one injured."

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New-look council housing – built in 2011 in Smethwick



Blocks of flats tower above housing in this view of Brierley Hill skyline



Ashmore Park, Wednesfield – the estate opened in 1955



High-rise flats in Walsall pictured back in 2008



The 1940s scheme for Stowlawn's Greens

End of the war brought boom in council housing

The second of two articles exploring the history of council housing in the Black Country

by Paul Quigley
Landscape Archaeologist
The distinctly black country network

THE first thing many think of when they hear the words 'council estate' is high rise flats.

But as we saw in the first half of our story, there were more than 50 years of municipal house building before tower blocks went up in the Black Country – and much of this is still standing.

The end of the Second World War saw another boom in council housing in England. But there were questions over the particular approach taken during the earlier growth of social housing.

In the 1940s there was a desire to produce better-designed estates than before. The so-called cottage estates of the 1920s and 30s had been criticised for being drab and repetitious. They were also thought to have added to a loss of community spirit in the transfer from tightly-knit neighbourhoods of Victorian town centre courts and terraces.

One result was the attempt in some places – Bilston for example – to design estates that would allow communities to flourish. The 1940s plan for Stowlawn with groups of houses each clustered around a green was part of this.

There was also new pressure to stop the encroachment into the countryside. But in the Black Country this certainly did not mean the growth of the conurbation was finished.

Reality

In fact, the post-war period saw the construction of what is the largest council estate on the edge of rural Staffordshire. Opened in 1955, Ashmore Park was in Wednesfield but it was actually created as 'overspill' for Wolverhampton. It is claimed to have been the biggest council estate in Europe at the time.

But during the 1950s under a new Conservative government dreams of garden suburbs and higher quality public housing started to fall by the wayside. Although the Stowlawn plan became a reality, by the 1960s the greens were built on owing to pressure for more homes in less space. More generally, the governments of the 1950s were anxious to encourage quantity over quality and also granted new subsidies for high rise flats.

Flats had been introduced into the Black Country by 1950, but by the early 60s they had become higher, and a mainstay of the house-building programme.

Huge clusters of tower blocks grew up in several Black Country towns such as on Windmill Lane in Smethwick, Paddock Lane in Walsall, Heath Town in Wolverhampton, and perhaps the largest, near the Delph locks in Brierley Hill.

There are no figures for the total number of tower blocks in the Black Country but they may have numbered 200. Many survive but huge numbers have also been demolished – in Sandwell for example it is as many as half of the total stock.

● For more on the history of local council housing go to http://distinctlyblackcountry.org.uk/blockcapital



The explosive demolition of Sandwell flats

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NEWS

Out-of-date meetings are brought to an end

A LONG-standing series of community meetings labelled irrelevant and out-of-date by councillors has come to an end in the Dudley borough.

Councillors have welcomed the move to ditch the current system of five area committees. Their remarks came as just two members of the public arrived for the final area committee meeting held in the borough.

The meetings are being replaced by less formal neighbourhood forums from next February to encourage more members of the public to attend.

A recent Brierley Hill area committee was the final meeting of its kind to be held by Dudley Council following their introduction around 14 years ago.

But dwindling attendances and criticism of their formality forced councillors to rethink the meetings. Under the proposals, meetings will be held with fewer councillors and no written agendas in neighbour community centres or venues.

Presently up to 18 councillors from an area can attend meetings with only 30 minutes scheduled for the public to raise issues or concerns.

However, councillors have drawn up proposals to allow people to drive the agenda of the new forums to get their views heard.

Councillor Dave Tyler has led the review and said the recent area committee proved the final nail in the coffin for the format.

"There have been no public speakers at this meeting – this shows how irrelevant they have become as there are only two members of the public here," he said.

Chris rocks on for star



David Essex in his heyday as a popstar

FOR Dudley singer/songwriter Chris Nott the only way is David Essex.

Chris, of View Drive, recently performed in front of the 70s popstar, who was receiving a lifetime achievement award from the Variety Club in Manchester.

"I got a standing ovation from him after performing Rock On – and Tim Rice, Paul Nicholas, Jeff Wayne and the cast of East Enders were there too," said Chris.

The singer was signed to Magnet Records by Lord Michael Levy at the age of 19 and, in 1999, appeared as his hero on "Stars in their Eyes". Chris is now organising a "Top of the Pops" style event at the Copthorne Hotel in Dudley, on November 30 in aid of the Variety Club.



Chris Nott as David

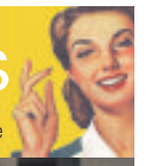
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	19.00-20.00	Circuit
	20.00-21.30	Fitness Yoga
Wednesday	18.00-18.30	Aerobics Blast
	18.30-19.30	Pump
	19.30-20.30	Pilates
Thursday	17.30-18.15	Family Bokwa
	18.30-19.30	Military Circuit
	19.30-20.30	Zumba
Saturday	9.30-10.15	Zumba Blast
Sunday	10.00-11.00	Zumba
	11.00-12.00	Pilates
	15.30-16.30	Military Circuit

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NEWS

Merry Hill centre slaps a ban on six in crackdown

SIX people have been banned from Merry Hill shopping centre as part of a new clamp down on suspected troublemakers and shoplifters.

A few weeks into the "one strike and you are out" policy at the centre, the six shoppers have been given bans ranging from three months to a year.

They were caught on head-cams used by police and security teams and include a 23-year-old man from Bilston excluded for 12 months and a 20-year-old woman from Wolverhampton banned for six months.

Both were suspected of thefts.

The initiative was set up by town police and the Business Crime Partnership and will run throughout the festive period and into the New Year.

It aims to tackle shoplifting, thefts from shoppers, cheque or card fraud, assaults against business employees, alcohol related violence and anti-social behaviour to create a safer environment for shoppers.

The head-cams have been funded by Dudley's Safe and Sound Community Safety Partnership.

They will continue to assist officers on additional policing activities in and around the centre. The policy came into force on November 1.

Sgt Andy Springthorpe said: "We will be increasing patrols on the run up to Christmas and sharing information about offenders with security and shops in the centre.

"A no-tolerance approach will be used by the team of officers and security staff to ensure that the Merry Hill Centre continues to be a low crime area." He added the cameras would offer an extra pair of eyes.

Orchestra date for town

HALESOWEN Orchestra is holding a concert in the town next month.

Conductor Martin Leigh will lead the group at the Cornbow Hall on December 8 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 each. For information, call 0121 5500956

Zumba-thon for charity



Members of the Zumba marathon charity effort

TWO Black Country mothers are hoping to exercise their way to fundraising success after organising a week-long Zumba marathon.

The Zumba sessions, which will take place over five days and five different venues, will raise funds for Children in Need.

Kay Williams aged 31, and her friend Lorna Fletcher, aged 27, who both live on Ivy Road, Tipton, decided to organise the event along with Tipton Sure Start after both benefitting from Children in Need funds.

The first Zumba event was held at St John's Church in Tipton. Others were run at the Tipton Sure Start Centre and Tipton Sports Academy.

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Closed down pub set to become One Stop shop

A CLOSED-down pub on a main route in Dudley could be turned into a convenience store.

The Crown Inn, Highgate Road, closed more than a year ago and has been empty ever since.

But, under the planning application sent to Dudley Council, the building will be reopened as a One Stop shop. Work has already started at the former pub to convert it into the retail store.

In a supporting document to the planning application, property consultants Calford-seaden said: "The features of the building will remain and there will be no alterations to the scale of the existing building.

"The alterations will increase the economy in the surrounding area to the benefit of the public, due to the nature of the business as a convenience store.

"The only visible changes to Highgate Road will be the new shop front and bollards, and a new bin store."

The planning application comes only six months after a proposal to convert the pub into flats and build three new houses was approved by Dudley Council.

But the plans appeared to have been ditched in favour of the proposal by One Stop Stores. Netherton ward Councillor Will Duckworth has welcomed the new plan. He said: "There is a clear lack of local shops in this area and it should, of course, also provide new jobs which is always a bonus."

Dudley Council is expected to make a decision in the New Year.

College lands grant cash

STOURBRIDGE College has won a grant from the Skills Funding Agency which will go towards a £4 million redevelopment project at its main campus.

Bosses want to revamp the Hagley Road site and create a Centre of Excellence for students studying courses in care, early years and uniformed public services.

They have been successful in securing an Enhanced Renewal Grant, which will be match funded by the college. The college is now waiting to hear how much cash they will receive.

It has already created Centres of Excellence in creative industries, sport, foundation learning, construction and building services.

The college has strong links with employers offering opportunities for work experience and placements, employability training, partnerships with local clubs and associations and some selected trade discounts and offers.

In September the college secured £20,000 funding for construction, arts and sports courses. The money will pay for bursaries for 20 students over the next two years.

It came from the National Express Foundation, set up to help disadvantaged young people across the region.

Earlier this year the college revealed plans for a £500,000 revamp of the Hagley Road campus. But bosses have been forced to go back to the drawing board after the proposals for the redevelopment of the entrance and reception sparked objections from neighbours.

There were fears the new, modern entrance would look out of place with older buildings in the area. Principal Lynette Cutting said: "We're delighted to have been successful in securing additional funding to further improve our facilities for students.

"We are in the process of planning in detail how we can create our new centre of excellence for care, early years and uniformed public services utilising our current space and we will be consulting with local residents and businesses in relation to any changes we make to our building structure."

Lunch will aid hospice

RUGBY fans can snap up tickets for a lunch which will help raise funds for a Midlands hospice.

The Christmas Rugby Lunch will be held in aid of charities including St Richard's Hospice in Worcester.

It will take place on December 12 at the MacDonald Burlington Hotel in Birmingham.

The event marks the 23rd Anniversary of the Midlands Sportsmans Luncheon.

The event includes a four course lunch and also features the comedian Gary Marshall.

Children banking on learning finance



Courtney France, nine, and classmates who have set up their own school bank

THRIFTY pupils at a Dudley school have been learning how to manage their cash and save for the future by running their own bank.

Youngsters at Stourbridge's Ridge Primary School have taken on the roles of staff helping other children to open accounts and completing the paperwork.

The scheme is run through HSBC bank with staff visiting the school in Gregory Road, Wollaston, to interview youngsters and provide training. Children can open an account with £1. The money is held at the HSBC branch in Kingswinford where youngsters, accompanied by parents, can withdraw money they have invested.

Older pupils can also get a debit card which, supervised by parents, they can use to make purchases online and in shops.

The scheme, called SchoolBank, is run nationwide by the HSBC. Headteacher Deb Hudson said the scheme had been very successful. "It gives children experience in saving and managing their own finances for the future," she said.

Safety measures aim to curb speeding cars

AN accident blackspot in Dudley is to get new safety measures in a bid to tackle speeding motorists and cut the number of crashes.

Two sets of speed humps will be installed on a stretch in Baptist End Road in Netherton.

Ward councillors and residents had complained to the council about the speed of cars travelling along the road and were concerned about the safety of children walking to school.

The speed cushions will be installed at a cost of £5,000 after the scheme was given the go-ahead by Dudley Council's transport and community safety chief Judy Foster.

It has been welcomed by Councillor Qadar Zada, who represents Netherton.

He said: "People go up the road quite fast and there have been a number of accidents by the White Swan pub.

"Cars have hit the front of properties and residents are becoming quite concerned.

"I have supported this scheme because I want to make the road safe for residents, especially for children who walk along the road on their way to school."

Councillor Zada added the council was also looking at whether any other improvements could be made in the road, near the roundabout by the junction with St Peter's Road.

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CLUB NEWS

Spam – a lot of it in buffet

WOMBOURNE WI

THE November meeting was a members' night so, apart from WI business, the committee was able to sit back and enjoy the evening.

The hall was decorated in red, white and blue, flags were hanging above and were used as table decorations on tri-coloured cloths. It was to be a remembrance night.

Three members told stories about how Wombourne women coped in the war. Air-raid shelters, evacuees, prisoners of war, food and clothing shortages all had to be dealt with. The latter two were rationed as was petrol. Being a small village everyone helped each other.

One food which became part of the wartime diet was Spam. The group was treated to a Monty Python sketch about Spam and finished with everyone taking took up the spam, spam, spam chant.

After sharing other stories about the war, the ladies enjoyed a buffet which included spam scones, spam pinwheels, spam in pitta bread, celery with spam and spam on cocktail sticks all washed down with a cup of tea. The competition was for wartime memorabilia.

Many things which belonged to servicemen and civilians were on display. Watches, cigarette case, ration books, photos, medals and so much more. It was a super evening of shared memories, some sad, some funny.

Birthday lunch told of North Pole expedition



Guest speaker Sue Riches, left, with Inner Wheel president Janet Weston

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF SEDGLEY & WOMBOURNE

ON November 7, the Inner Wheel Club of Sedgley & Wombourne held its 42nd birthday fellowship lunch at the Linden Suite Tettenhall Road Wolverhampton.

The speaker was Mrs Sue Riches whose talk based on her experiences was entitled 'The world's first all-female expedition to the North Pole'. There were 70 members of Inner Wheel in attendance from clubs throughout the district.

'Bodgers' are introduced

K'FORD LADIES SOCIAL CIRCLE

MEMBERS were welcomed to the November meeting by chairman Audrey Phipps. She also welcomed Jan and her helpers, the rug makers from Bantock House.

A donation of £80 has been sent to The Poppy Appeal. Blankets for the Fistula Hospital will be collected at the December meeting where the 2013 programmes will be distributed.

Jan introduced the "Bantock Bodgers," a group formed six years ago when a rag rug was required for a 40s evening.

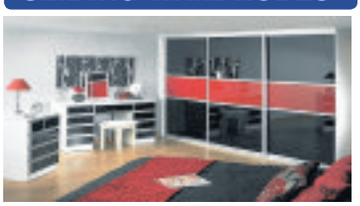
Members were given a piece of hessian, fabric strips and a peg bodger, then with the help of the ladies set about creating their own small piece of rug.

Sylvia Fletcher gave the vote of thanks. Sheila Evans and Pauline Williams won the raffle.

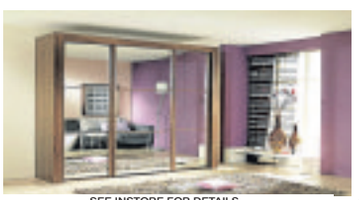
The next meeting is the Christmas party on December 20.

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People evacuated due to blaze inside rocket factory

HOMES and businesses were evacuated and roads closed after a serious fire broke out at a rocket-making factory.

A 600m exclusion zone was put in place around Roxel at Summerfield, Kidderminster after the alarm was raised at 8.30am on Saturday.

No-one was injured in the blaze which was being tackled by six crews of firefighters from across Worcestershire.

Police set up a cordon and closed neighbouring roads including a stretch of the A449 Worcester Road from the junction with the A442.

Roxel designs and manufactures rocket motors for tactical missiles.

Businesses on the nearby Hoo Farm Industrial Estate, off Worcester Road, were evacuated and residents in a small number of homes on roads neighbouring the site were asked to leave. They were able to take shelter at Wyre Forest Glades Centre where rest centres were set up for people who had no where else to go.

Lee Greenaway, manager at RIS Roof Centre on Hoo Farm Industrial Estate said police had arrived at 10am and ordered everyone to evacuate.

He said: "Officers arrived and told us to get out of the area as quickly as we could.

"It only took a few minutes for us to get off the estate."

Owen Southan, 30, who works in the warehouse at Protektor UK on the Hoo Farm estate said: "We did not know what was happening at first.

"The managers simply told us we had to go as quickly as we could and that's exactly what we did."

Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service's Incident Support Unit has been at the scene.

Academy plans attacked

A LONG-serving teacher spoke passionately against plans to turn a secondary school into an academy at a packed public meeting.

Paula Roe said staff morale at Redhill School, Stourbridge, was low because of the controversial proposals – which she claimed would be detrimental to the school's future.

Speaking to about 40 parents, residents and staff at the Duke William pub, Coventry Street, Mrs Roe, who has taught at the school for 34 years, said she did not believe it had anything to gain by becoming an academy and the majority of staff were against the plans.

"I believe the teachers at Redhill are not opposed to change. They are always changing to ensure they are teaching in the most appropriate ways to ensure every pupil achieves their potential and that's what we will continue to do. We do not need to become an academy for that," she said. The majority of staff are opposed to academy conversion.

"We haven't heard a logical case for it. We don't know what we're going to gain from converting to an academy," she added.

Mrs Roe, president of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, Britain's biggest teaching union, said: "I am totally opposed to academies. They are detrimental to education. They narrow parental choice and remove the local authority as the safety net.

"This outstanding school would be removed from the community if academy status goes ahead," she said.

Sue Lowe, who has a daughter in Year 11, said: "I've joined the campaign because I cannot see what is broken at Redhill that needs fixing. The school is outstanding and does not need to change."

At the weekend campaigners held a town centre demonstration in their battle against the plans while more than 400 signatures have been collected on a petition.

Redhill governor and Stourbridge MP Margot James has supported the plans to become an academy, while headteacher Stephen Dunster says that he is committed to "enhancing its position as an outstanding non-selective school."

Man denies taxi charges

A DUDLEY man who is accused of driving a car for hire without a Hackney carriage licence and without insurance will have his case sent to trial.

Muzami Hussain, aged 32, of Vicarage Road, Lye, allegedly picked up two council officers in Lower High Street, Stourbridge.

He appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court last week with a relative to translate the proceedings into his native Punjabi.

He denied both charges and will reappear for trial on January 15.

He was bailed unconditionally until that date.









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NEWS

Man admits murdering property developer, 57

A 32-year-old man has admitted the murder of a Stourbridge businessman and property developer who was found dead in his flat.



Richard Sherratt

Paramjit Singh pleaded guilty to killing father-of-three Richard Sherratt when he appeared at Stafford Crown Court.

Singh, from Wilmore Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham, also admitted robbery by taking a watch, wallet and bank cards from Mr Sherratt's Bridgnorth flat following the attack on June 14 this year. He also pleaded guilty to six charges of fraud by using bank and store cards belonging to Mr Sherratt after the robbery.

Judge Simon Tonking adjourned the case for a pre-sentence report to be carried out.

Singh was remanded in custody and is expected to be sentenced in the new year.

Mr Sherratt was found dead by police in his flat on June 14. A post-mortem revealed the 57-year-old had died from head injuries.

Mr Sherratt's family spoke of their heartbreak after his death and son Joseph, 28, who now lives in London, said they were finding it difficult to cope with the loss.

Almost 500 friends and family members attended his funeral at St Peter's Church in Kinver. The businessman was a former president of Kinver Football Club and also enjoyed shooting and fishing. Mr Sherratt, who grew up in Kinver, used to run Hyperion Homes and was responsible for numerous property developments in the Black Country.

New Archbishop backed

THE new Archbishop of Canterbury has been welcomed by the Bishop of Worcester.

The Bishop of Durham, the Rt Rev Justin Welby, is replacing Dr Rowan Williams.

Dr John Inge said: "He is a very godly and able man with a wealth of appropriate experience."

Singers set for contest



From left, back, Cora O'Mahony, Richard Brown, Lorraine Preston, Janet Hinton, Ele Millward and Debbie Broomfield. Front, Caroline Beech, with a poster for the event

KIDDERMINSTER singers are warming up their vocal cords for a battle to become the Last Choir Standing. Choirs from local organisations and businesses have been busily rehearsing ahead of a competition at the Town Hall on December 5. They will be belting out harmonies in front of a judging panel for the chance to win a Last Choir Standing trophy while raising money for Kemp Hospice. Tickets cost £7.50 or £5 for under-16s and are available from Kidderminster Town Hall, Kemp Hospice and all of the Kemp Hospice shops.

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Why school has the recipe for success

PREPARATION for a range of 11+ examinations and the success of gaining places at local grammar schools and prestigious independent schools are an integral part of the education offered at Norfolk House School in Edgbaston.

This small, independent school has pupils between the ages of 3-11 years, with a maximum of 20 children per class allowing a high degree of individual attention.

In the last academic year more than 78 per cent of the children gained places to grammar school and some have also won scholarships to local independent schools.

Combining high academic standards with some of the most competitive fees of any independent school in Birmingham, is a real bonus for parents in today's challenging economic climate.

Reputation

Extra 11+ and SATS tuition is also available on Saturdays during term time.

Next door to the school, in a fully renovated Victorian building, is Norfolk House Nursery. Opened in the Autumn of 2009, the nursery quickly gained an excellent reputation.

It accommodates 52 children and is registered for full and sessional day care, accepting children from three months to four years of age.

During a recent Independent Schools Inspection (March 2012), the Early Years departments of the school and the nursery achieved a well-deserved 'outstanding' judgement and the school was rated as 'Good'.

During a recent Curriculum Challenge and International Food Week, the children were introduced to the cultures of many different countries as they studied 'Children Round the World'.



During International Food Week, the children were introduced to the cultures of many different countries

The highlight of the week for the Reception class was a visit to the Davis Jamaican Bakery in Handsworth where they sampled a wide variety of Jamaican food.

However, outstanding judgements, excellent examination results and position in league tables only provide a tiny insight into school life. Other factors, including cost, ethos and class sizes are important too.

Visit the school and nursery, talk to the staff, observe the children and then make your choice – you won't be disappointed.

Helen Maresca (Headmistress)

Norfolk House School is an independent school for children aged between 3 and 11 years



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- The quality of teaching is good
- Pupils behave well in lessons and around school
- The work of the very committed senior leadership team is outstanding

Ofsted, February 2012

For more details of our school or to arrange a visit, contact:

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Further details on our school website - **www.tenterfieldsprimary.co.uk**

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Outstanding success is down to hard work

AS you know Ofsted made their inspection visit recently at Tenterfields Primary School and graded the school Good in all areas with the children's spiritual, social, moral and cultural development graded as Outstanding.

We are all very pleased about this achievement, especially as the goalposts for school inspections has changed twice since we were last inspected in 2010.

Ensure

Headteacher, Keith Butler said "Staff and governors have worked tirelessly to ensure the children at Tenterfields get the very best! We are thrilled with the result!"

Some of the comments in the report include:

"This is a good school"

"Pupils make good progress and standards in all age groups are rising"

"Attainment is above average in reading/ writing and maths by the end of Year 6"

"The learning environment in Early Years is vibrant and exciting"

"Teaching is good- teachers plan exciting activities that capture pupils' interests"

"The behaviour of the children is good- they are polite, kind and co-operative"



Smiles all round as the school celebrates its Ofsted success

"There are exciting and relevant opportunities to write"

"Teaching engages and stretches pupils"

"The Headteacher is very well supported by the Deputy Head and senior leadership team who work well together and share a drive for excellence"

"Governance is good. Governors are fully involved in analysing the school's strengths and weaknesses and planning improvement through regular meetings and the school improvement committee "

As I'm sure you will agree , very positive comments. We will now continue to improve until we reach Outstanding in all areas!

Keith Butler Headteacher
Tenterfields Primary
01384 818560

Colley Lane Primary School

COLLEY LANE NURSERY
& LITTLE HANDS CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Invite You to

'A Festive Family Fun Session'

On Monday December 17th 2012 please come along for an hour session EITHER between 9.30-10.30 am OR 1-2 pm, (whichever session your child normally attends).

Booking Essential

Activities Available
* Festive crafts-card making
* Decorations, tree dressing
* Christmas Songs
* Christmas Hunt
* Outdoor play
* Meet Santa

Please wrap up warm, as some activities will be outdoors

* An exceptionally rich learning environment
* Early Years Foundation Stage provides a calm, productive and structured learning environment in which children enjoy learning and feel safe
* Parents are delighted with this provision.

Refreshments will be available and every child will receive a present from Santa.

The Nursery teacher Miss Hale and Children's Centre teacher Mrs Proud will both be available during this session to answer any questions or queries regarding the Nursery provision and transition concerns. We look forward to seeing you and your children.

Colley Lane Primary School

TOUR OF THE SCHOOL

Tuesday, 27th November 2012

9.00 am-9.45 am or 1.15 pm-1.45 pm

Are you thinking about schools for your child?

Our Foundation Stage are holding an open afternoon for children who wish to start Reception in September 2013

Please come along with your child and have a look at the classrooms and resources. You will be given a tour of the school and staff will be available for a chat.

OFSTED 2010 - "an exceptionally rich learning environment. Early Years Foundation Stage provides a calm, productive and structured learning environment in which children can enjoy learning and feel safe. Strong links with parent are effective in further promoting good learning and well-being.

Parents are delighted with this provision".







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Email: info@colley.dudley.sch.uk Website: www.colley.dudley.sch.uk

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We also have purpose-built areas of learning specific to the curriculum topics including a role play area, creative section and areas for your child to improve their literacy and numeracy skills.

At Caslon, we can offer child care for children from the ages of two to four. We can currently offer 10 hours of free places for two years old, 15 hours of free places for three- four year olds.

In addition to the free places; we can also additional child care at very competitive rates.

If you would like to know more or come and visit us, please contact the school and ask to make an appointment.

Adrian Pembleton (Headteacher) Caslon Primary Community School 01384818875



A chance for the reception class to display their work



Fun ways to learn about maths



Butterfly project aids learning

Beecher Bear Daycare & Nursery

Caslon Primary Community School

Do you have a child between the age of 2-4 years old?

Why not bring them along to our OFSTED registered Daycare/Nursery facility. Every child will have the opportunity to explore our fun and stimulating learning environment. They will be supported by our enthusiastic, experienced Early Years Team.

"Provision and outcomes for children in the registered childcare and the school's Early Years Foundation Stage are good. These lay secure foundations for children's acquisition of early literacy skills and their personal development."
OFSTED JAN 2012

**We are able to offer up to 10 free hours for 2 year olds (Certain criteria must be met with Little Hands Children's Centre) and 15 free hours for 3-4 year olds.*
In addition to the free places, we also offer extremely competitive daily and half day rates for 2-4 year olds.





Beecher Bear Day Care

For more information about FREE* entitlement hours... please call 01384 818878 or 818875 and ask to speak to the Daycare Manager.

Beecher Bear Daycare & Nursery, Beeches View Avenue, Halesowen, B63 2ES.

The Federation of Lapal Primary School and Lutley Primary School

Executive Headteacher
Mrs Jeannette Mackinney

Lapal Primary School

Head of School
Mrs Joanna Turner



At Lapal we have a stimulating learning environment that allows our children to flourish. We embrace our school motto, 'Learning together, Successful forever'.

We offer;

- an exceptional outdoor learning environment, encouraging the children to discover their surroundings; (£20,000 spent in 2012 on the major redevelopment of this provision).
- a well organized indoor environment that provides interest and excitement for children, promoting investigation and independence across all areas of learning.
- an Early Years Foundation Stage unit, led by our team of experienced practitioners
- a rich curriculum that ensures our children make very good progress and achieve outcomes that are well above local means in Dudley
- a highly successful induction programme incorporating stay and play sessions and nursery and home visits, ensuring a settled start to school life
- many opportunities for parents to come into school so that they can participate in school life

To fully appreciate what our school has to offer your child please call our school office on 01384 818200 to organise a visit - We look forward to meeting you.
Website – www.lapal.dudley.sch.uk

Lutley Primary School

Head of School
Mrs Rebecca Cox



We are a community school with wonderful children, supportive parents and a very dedicated team of staff and governors who all work together to ensure that the outcomes for our children are the best that they can be. 'Learning, Caring, Aiming high - Together'

- The Early Years team achieve outcomes that are consistently well above local means in Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton.
- £10,000+ remodelling of The Early Years environment in 2012
- In addition to our 6 highly experienced staff we have a designated key person to oversee ICT and outdoor learning
- Forest school sessions in The Early Years and Year 1
- Regular sessions where parents can come and work alongside their child
- A well established induction programme for parents during the summer term. This helps them prepare their child for school in September.

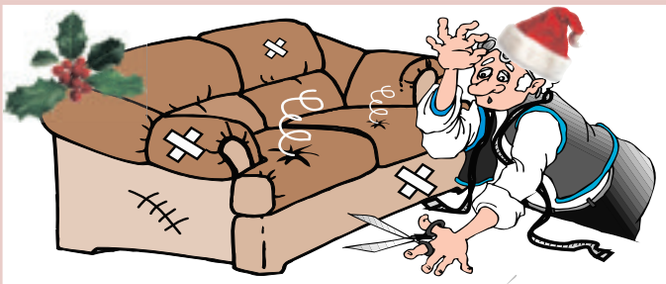
Book to see The Early Years and Key stage 1 in action on Friday 11th January 2013 at 9.30am

Ofsted Outstanding 2009 2010

Website - www.lutley.dudley.sch.uk
Contact 01384 818220

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NEW ALBUMS

Swift revenge via music

Pop and rock:
TAYLOR Swift hones her craft to near perfection on Red. It is an album with a pop sheen but rooted in country music. The songs chide stupid boys for not knowing a good thing until they lost it, or rather, her.

Lawson look like a rock group but sound like a boy band, and are well known to pop fans for supporting everyone from Will Young to Jessie J over the past year. Their debut album **Chapman Square** will win lots of fans, even if they sometimes sound like a junior Snow Patrol.

Van Morrison is on top form for his 35th studio album, **Born To Sing: No Plan B**. It is easy-going and jazzy with touches of sharp wit, and will warm the heart of anyone who holds his classic Moondance album dear.

Ska

Gwen Stefani puts her solo career on hold with a return to the band that made her name for California ska-rockers **No Doubt**'s first album in a decade, **Push And Shove**. It's a triumph, in an unfussy way, blending the band's reggae rock with the clubby dance sound favoured by Stefani, plus a couple of lip-trembling ballads.

Baggy Black Country rockers **The Twang** were flavour of the month then dropped by the trend-setters who pigeon-holed them as a beery lads' band. Third album **10.20** soars at times, angry but controlled, and is well worth a listen.

New Zealand pop star **Gin Wigmore** is the sparky blonde singer who co-stars with James Bond (aka Daniel Craig) on a popular TV beer ad, singing the electro blues rocker Man Like That, included on her album **Gravel And Wine**. Her Duffy-meets-Paloma vocal is an acquired taste but her dramatic glam pop has the combined allure of Nancy Sinatra and Suzi Quatro.

The Jim Jones Revue, on their latest album **The Savage Heart**, remind listeners of the visceral thrill of raw rock 'n' roll. Led by hammered piano and Jones' roaring vocal, it is a house-shaking amalgam of blues, rockabilly, punk and garage rock. If you like music from Howlin' Wolf, Dr Feelgood, Captain Beefheart or Nick Cave, give it a listen.

Leon Burakowski



Taylor Swift – musical revenge on former boyfriends

Folk:

The Staves – Dead & Born & Grown

THE luxurious harmonies of the Staveley sisters blend so wondrously that it's a bonus they play instruments so expertly, and if you want to hear how good they are then their debut album is the perfect introduction.

The trio's eagerly awaited album has already received acclaim with appearances on national radio and Later with Jools Holland.

The tracks do capture wonderfully the precision singing and song writing of Emily, Jessica and Camilla.

There is a chance to hear them live at the Hare & Hounds, Birmingham, on November 28.

The Saw Doctors – 2525

This is part two of the Galway gang's 'best of' collection, including recent hit Downtown featuring the original singer Petula Clark.

There is an a capella version of Red Cortina and live versions of I'll Be On My Way and I Useta Lover.

Many of the favourites are there too, including their unofficial signature tune N17 along with Galway and Mayo, Bless Me Father, Share The Darkness and Tommy K.

If you download the iTunes version there is the bonus of a 17-minute commentary with Leo Moran and Davy Carton on the inspirations behind many of their most famous and best loved songs.

They are at the Wulfrun Hall on December 9.

The Levellers – Static on the Airwaves

It's good to see there are bands around who still have a political edge. From opening track, We Are All Gunmen, Mark Chadwick's vocals make you take notice. Then on Truth Is, a folksier offering, you could be listening to Bellowhead in full flight. Their tenth album on their own label has got classic written all over it.

Sandi Thom – Flesh and Blood

Thom has a great voice for blues, add to this the Scottish singer/songwriter's instrumental talents and her latest album is one for any fan of the blues.

Danny Farragher

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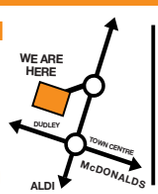
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Norfolk Roast Turkey
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Harrogate Spring Flower Show

Pick of the week

Two days departing April 26



PRICE FROM £99.95

HELD at the Great Yorkshire Showground, the Harrogate Spring Flower Show is the first big flower show of the year.

Regarded as one of the best of its kind in the country, this hugely popular annual event always delights garden enthusiasts.

You'll find flower halls crammed with exhibitions and nurseries from all over the country competing for the coveted Premier Award and the NEHS Trophy for' Best-in-Show.'

Visit the Floristry and Flower-Arranging marquee, one of the largest at any flower show, admire the exquisite bouquets and pick up tips from the experts at the demonstrations and workshops.

As well as the breathtaking displays of daffodils, tulips, herbaceous perennials, bonsai and alpines to enjoy, there are plenty of opportunities for shopping (for gardening gadgets, tools and ornaments) at the Art and Craft Fair.

A visit to York is also on the itinerary, a city layered with history, beauty and variety. You may decide to visit York Minster or Clifford's Tower (entrances payable locally) or if shopping is more to your taste, meander through the shopping streets of Stonegate and The Shambles.

INFO

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to the Harrogate Spring Flower Show
- Visit to York
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability -supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Bletchley Park

The secrets of war

Two days departing April 27 and August 10

PRICE FROM £99.95

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Bletchley Park including a guided walking tour
- Visit to Oxford
- Optional excursion to Blenheim Palace
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability -supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Classic Greece

Eight days various departure dates

PRICE FROM £899

- Return flights
- Seven nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Two dinners
- Walking tour of Athens
- Guided visits to the Acropolis, Epidaurus, Mycenae, Olympia and Delphi
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability -supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally
Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Blackpool and Brontë Country

Five days departing March 18 and June 10

PRICE FROM £189

- Return coach travel
- Four nights half-board accommodation in Blackpool
- Tour of Pendle Witch Country
- Visits to Pendle Heritage Centre and Boundary Mill at Colne
- Tour of Brontë Country taking in Haworth, Ilkley and Skipton
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Cirque du Soleil - Kooza

at the Royal Albert Hall

Two days departing February 2

PRICE FROM £139

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- £35 category 3 ticket for Kooza at the Royal Albert Hall (upgrades offered)
- Return coach transfers to the Royal Albert Hall
- Free time in London
- Visit to Windsor
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Afternoon Tea at the Ritz

Two days departing February 8

PRICE FROM £199

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Tour manager escort to The Ritz
- Afternoon tea at The Ritz
- Visits to Fortnum & Mason and Harrods
- Glass of Champagne at the Champagne Bar St Pancras
- Free time in London
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Austrian Winter Wonderland

Five days departing February and March

PRICE FROM £329

- Return flights
- Four nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided visit to Innsbruck
- Optional excursions offered
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

Saturday Night Theatre Break

Two days selected weekend departure dates

PRICE FROM £129.95

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Ticket for the Saturday evening performance of a West End show of your choice
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Please note: the "from" price and price bands vary for each show
Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Moselle Valley by Eurostar

Six days various departure dates

PRICE FROM £489

- Return standard class seat on Eurostar
- Return rail connection to London (selected dates)
- Return coach transfers overseas
- Five nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Aachen, Koblenz, Cochem, Trier and Bernkastel
- Optional river cruise and wine tasting excursions
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744)

London theatre by rail

Two days selected weekend departure dates

PRICE FROM £139.95

- Return standard class rail travel to London (upgrade offered)
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at a three or four-star London hotel
- Ticket for a Saturday evening performance of a show of your choice
- Extra night offered for a supplement
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Please note the 'from' price and price bands vary for each show
Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Classical Spectacular

at the Royal Albert Hall

Two days departing March 17

PRICE FROM £109.95

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Choir seat for the Classical Spectacular concert (upgrades offered)
- Short panoramic London sightseeing tour
- Free time in London
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Best of Canada

13 days various dates

PRICE FROM £1,639

- Return flights and internal flight
- 11 nights room-only hotel accommodation
- Coach touring in Canada
- Visits to Niagara Falls and Quebec city
- Visit to Jasper and drive the Icelands Parkway
- Two days sightseeing in Vancouver
- Drive through the Rockies
- Time in Toronto, Banff and Lake Louise
- Escorted by a tour manager in Canada
- Single rooms subject to availability -supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Air Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)



Broadway show by US punk band makes regional debut

GREEN Day's explosive Broadway rock musical American Idiot will arrive at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre next week as part of its first UK tour.

The American cast is coming to England with the US punk band's award-winning musical. Alex Nee will star as Johnny alongside Thomas Hettrick as Tunny, Alyssa DiPalma as Whatsername, Jenna Rubaii as The Extraordinary Girl and Trent Saunders as St Jimmy.

American Idiot features the music of Green Day with the lyrics of its lead singer Billie Joe Armstrong.

The story is by Armstrong and Michael Mayer and direction is by Tony Award-winner Mayer.

The show's songs include Boulevard of Broken Dreams, 21 Guns, Wake Me Up When September Ends, Holiday and the blockbuster title track American Idiot from Green Day's 2004 Grammy Award-winning, multi-platinum album. Also included are several songs from Green Day's 2009 release 21st Century Breakdown, and an unreleased love song, When Its Time.

American Idiot is at the New Alex from Monday to Saturday, December 1.

Giant Peach is launched

BIRMINGHAM Stage Company, who toured the UK with Horrible Histories, have a good reputation for bringing Roald Dahl's stories to the stage.

This festive season they have adapted Dahl's first children's book, James and the Giant Peach, for the theatre and it will continue at Birmingham Old Rep in Station Street (behind New Street Station) until February 2.

Directed by Nikolai Foster and with choreography by Walsall dancer Drew McOnie, the show will then tour the UK.

It is described as a wizzpopping wonder to entertain over-fives and the whole family.



It's electrifyin' – rock 'n' roll musical Grease returns to the Grand with Danny Bayne in the lead role of Danny Zuko, whilst Carina Gillespie will play Sandy

Grease is the word at Grand

DANNY Bayne, winner of TV's Grease Is The Word, returns to his West End role of teen heart-throb Danny Zuko when rock 'n' roll musical Grease returns to Wolverhampton next week.

Whilst Danny fills the John Travolta role from the movie, stepping into Olivia Newton-John's high-heels as Sandy is Carina Gillespie, who appeared in a UK tour of The Buddy Holly Story.

Back by popular demand, the show features all the songs from the movie including You're The One That I Want, Summer Nights, Hopelessly Devoted To You, Sandra Dee, We Go Together and Greased Lightning.

The Thunderbirds and Pink Ladies will be rocking the Grand from Monday to Saturday, December 1.

Steel yourself for a quirky town view

COMEDIAN Mark Steel will bring his own particlar take on areas of Dudley with his In Town performance.

Mark will be performing a routine about the history of every town he'll perform in.

On Friday November 30 he brings his own brand of humour to Stourbridge Town Hall

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets are £14.00.

Tempestuous time from ballet group

AWARD-winning company, Ballet Cymru, are to perfrom Shakespeare's The Tempest in Dudley.

The company brings its own take on the mystical characters of Ariel - the fleet-footed spirit of the air; Caliban - the deformed and twisted slave; Prospero - the magician and lovers Miranda and Ferdinand.

The show at Stourbridge Town Hall is Suitable for Children aged 7 upwards.

The Tempest will be staged on Saturday December 1 starting at 8pm. Tickets: Adults £16.00, children £10.00, family of Four £44.00.

Fox is getting folky

ON Friday, November 30, Geordie folk singer Bob Fox will be playing at the Woodman Folk Club, Ashwood Marina Social Club, Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford DY6 0AQ.

For more information contact 01384 831263.

Festive time at the town's switch on

FATHER Christmas and Olympic torch bearer Jessica Gripton will be joining Sandwell's Deputy Mayor at Cradley Heath's festive lights switch on.

The free event will be held in Upper High Street on Saturday from 5pm to 8pm, with the lights switched on by the deputy mayor Councillor Vic Silvester at 6pm.

Attractions will include a fun fair, Salvation Army band, Blackheath Ukelele Group Strummers, Halesowen & Rowley Regis Rotary and Air Ambulance will also be taking part.

Tales of Narnia brought to town

DUDLEY Little Theatre is staging the magical tale of The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe.

The adventure of the four children, Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy, who stumble into this strange land through the wardrobe will be told at Netherton Arts Centre from December 5 to 8.

Shows start at7.30pm, with a matinee at 2.30pm

Tickets £7.00 or with concessions £6.00

Tickets can be bought from DLT on 01384 872583

Kicking in the 80s

TRIBUTE act Kick up the 80s will perform at the Knights Quest pub, in Blackheath High Street on Saturday night.

Entrance is £4.

For details call 0121 561 5599.

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4½lb Ducks (oven ready)	£5.49 each
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Whole Fresh Sirloin Beef	£6.99lb - £15.41 kilo
Whole Fresh Scotch Rumps	£4.79lb - £10.56 kilo
Whole Fresh Topside Beef	£2.99lb - £6.60 kilo
Whole Small Silverside Beef	£2.89lb - £6.38 kilo
Whole Small Top Rump Beef	£2.89lb - £6.38 kilo
5lb Diced Shin Beef	£2.58lb - £5.69 kilo
5lb Extra Lean Diced Scotch Beef	£2.99lb - £6.59 kilo
5lb Chuck Steak	£2.78 lb - £6.13 kilo
5lb Mince Beef	£2.20lb - £4.85 kilo
Whole Fresh Pork Loins (rind on/off)	£2.00lb - £4.41 kilo
Fresh Small Boneless Pork Legs	£1.58lb - £3.48 kilo
Whole Bone-in Pork Loin	£1.89lb - £4.17 kilo
Whole Spare Ribs	£1.49lb - £3.28 kilo
Whole Bone-in Shoulders	£1.18lb - £2.60 kilo
5lb Loin Lamp Chops	£2.99lb - £6.59 kilo
5lb Lamb Rump Steaks (minted/plain)	£3.99lb - £8.80 kilo
5lb Diced Lamb	£3.99lb - £8.80 kilo
5lb Minced Lamb	£2.99lb - £6.71 kilo
Boneless Horseshoe Gammons	£1.99lb - £4.39 kilo
5lb Pk Rindless Short Back Bacon	£8.99 p/pack

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 24.11.12

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Jonathan Togo

CSI: Miami
Channel 5, 9.45pm

Horatio Caine makes his final appearance as the show comes to an end after a decade of crime-busting. And if you're going to bring a series to a close, it doesn't hurt to have one of Hollywood's favourite rent-a-baddies, Malcolm McDowell on board. He plays shifty lawyer Darren Vogel, the sort of role this ex-pat has been playing for decades, so it'll be interesting to see who chews the scenery more, him or David Caruso. The wafer-thin plot sees Horatio forced to arrest Ryan for the murder of an assistant state attorney. Starring Jonathan Togo.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Baking Made Easy. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Live Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix Qualifying. **5.30** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.50** Pointless Celebrities.

6.40 Strictly Come Dancing. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly present another ballroom battle as the pro-celebrity couples bid to impress the judges and get their names at the top of the leaderboard.

8.00 Merlin. The warlock agrees to help a young druid boy, although to do so he has to leave Camelot on a dangerous mission – just as the citadel is playing host to the fearsome Sarrum of Amata.

8.45 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws. With a performance by McFly.

8.55 Casualty. A teenager's birthday celebrations are brought to an abrupt end by an intruder, and the shock of inheriting her hated aunt's large fortune causes a woman to collapse.

9.45 Live at the Apollo. Rhod Gilbert plays host for another half-hour of stand-up from the Hammersmith Apollo in London, introducing routines by Jon Richardson and Kerry Godliman.

10.15 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Manchester United v Queens Park Rangers; National Lottery Update.

11.50 The Football League Show.

1.05 Weatherview. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.05 Film:** My Fake Fiance. (2009) Comedy, with Melissa Joan Hart. **1.30** Live International Rugby Union. **4.00** Final Score. **5.10** Live International Rugby Union.

7.30 Attenborough: 60 Years in the Wild. David Attenborough reflects on scientific discoveries in his lifetime that have transformed the way the natural world is viewed, including how and where life began. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring is accused of leaving a light burning in the church hall during a blackout, and receives a summons to appear in court. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)

9.00 QI XL. Extended edition. Stephen Fry finds out how much Greg Proops, David O'Doherty, Reginald D Hunter and regular panellist Alan Davies know about jungles.

9.45 Rolling Stones: Crossfire Hurricane. Concluding part of the documentary charting the 50-year career of the band, with contributions by Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Charlie Watts, Ronnie Wood and Bill Wyman.

10.45 The Rolling Stones at the BBC. A selection of the band's performances from the BBC archives, including The Last Time, Let's Spend the Night Together, Get Off of My Cloud, Honky Tonk Women and Gimme Shelter.

11.30 Keith Richards: A Culture Show Special. An interview with the Rolling Stones guitarist. (R)

12.30 Film: Dawn of the Dead. (1978) **2.50** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Babar and the Adventures of Badou. (R) **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** The Hive. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** The Avengers. **7.25** Rated A for Awesome. **7.40** Rated A for Awesome. **7.50** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.05** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.20** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.30** Shake It Up. **9.00** My Phone Genie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.15** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **12.20** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **1.05** ITV News; Weather. **1.10** Holiday Home Sweet Home. **2.10** Holiday Home Sweet Home. **3.10 Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor. (2008) **5.20** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.30** ITV News; Weather. **5.45** The Golden Rules of TV.

6.15 New You've Been Framed! A fresh selection of comical clips.

6.45 Take Me Out. An engineer, an entertainer, an estate agent and a solicitor take part.

8.00 The X Factor. The tension mounts for the remaining acts as they compete for places in the semi-final, hoping to gain support from the judges and viewers. Dermot O'Leary presents. The results are tomorrow at 8pm.

9.45 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! The surprises keep coming for the celebrities.

10.45 ITV News; Weather.

11.00 Paul McCartney – Live Kisses.

12.00 The Cube. (R) **12.45** The Store; ITV News Headlines. **2.50** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.35** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Channel 4 Presents – Lee. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Beach Volleyball. (R) **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** Channel 4 Presents – Hannah. (R) **9.00** A Racing Portrait: For the Love. **9.30** T4: The Killers: London Live. **10.05** T4: Made in Chelsea. **11.10** T4: Suburgatory. **11.45** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.20** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.50** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** The Simpsons. (R) **4.20** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **4.55** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **5.20** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **5.55** Come Dine with Me: Ireland.

6.25 Come Dine with Me: Ireland. Actor George McMahon hosts the final dinner party.

6.55 Channel 4 News.

7.25 4thought.tv.

7.30 Heston's Fantastical Food. Heston Blumenthal celebrates the tea break on a monumental scale, creating the world's biggest packet of biscuits and a huge pyramid-shaped tea bag to serve an entire town. (R)

8.30 Stephen Fry: Gadget Man. The actor delves into the world of technology. (R)

9.00 Film: The Wolfman. (2010) Premiere. A Victorian actor investigates the violent death of his brother, only to succumb to a devastating family curse. Horror, starring Benicio Del Toro and Anthony Hopkins.

11.00 Film: Fatal Attraction. (1987) Thriller, starring Michael Douglas and Glenn Close.

1.15 Film: Micmacs. (2009) **3.00** Hollyoaks. **5.05** Countdown. (R) **5.50** Quick Bakes with Eric Lanlard.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** ThunderCats. **11.10** Highland Emergency. (R) **11.40** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **12.35** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.35** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **2.30 Film:** The Town Christmas Forgot. (2010) **4.15 Film:** The Christmas Pageant. (2011)

6.00 Film: A Christmas Visitor. (2002) Drama, starring Reagan Pasternak and Aaron Ashmore.

7.45 5 News Weekend.

7.50 NCIS. Ducky is shocked to realise a cadaver he is using for medical research is the body of a murder victim. Efforts to identify the corpse lead to a criminal mastermind. (R)

8.40 NCIS. Lt Col Mann arrives to assist with inquiries into the murder of a Marine – a case that becomes personal for Gibbs when he learns one of the witnesses is his ex-wife Stephanie. (R)

9.40 5 News Weekend.

9.45 CSI: Miami. Part two of two. In the last-ever episode, Horatio is forced to arrest Ryan for murdering an assistant state attorney, but suspects Darren Vogel was involved.

10.45 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Grissom examines a transsexual's death. (R)

11.40 Forensic Files. Finding the killer of an estate agent. (R)

12.05 SuperCasino. **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Great Artists. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 International Rugby Union **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **9.45** One Direction: Up All Night Live **10.45** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 Metalworks! – The Knight's Tale **8.00** Shock and Awe: The Story of Electricity **9.00** The Killing III **11.00** Britain on Film: Getting Down to Business **11.30** Muddy Waters and the Rolling Stones – Live at the Checkerboard Lounge

ITV2
4.10 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **5.40 Film:** Twins (1988) **7.45 Film:** A Cinderella Story (2004) **9.45** The Xtra Factor **10.45** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.50** Take Me Out – The Gossip

ITV3
3.55 Agatha Christie's Sparkling Cyanide **5.55** Murder, She Wrote **7.00** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Bomb Girls **11.00 Film:** Vanity Fair (2004)

ITV4
1.55 Film: Aces High (1976) **4.15 Film:** Dunkirk (1958) **7.00** The Motorbike Show **8.00** River Monsters **9.00 Film:** The Big Lebowski (1998) **11.25** Hamish & Andy's Euro Gap Year

E4
5.30 How I Met Your Mother **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Baggage **9.00** Derren Brown: The Assassin **10.05 Film:** Sorority Row (2009)

Film4
2.40 The Love Bug (1968) **4.50** Runaway Bride (1999) **7.10** Crocodile Dundee (1986) Comedy adventure, written by and starring Paul Hogan, with Linda Kozlowski, John Meillon and Mark Blum. **9.00** Coming to America (1988) **11.20** The King of Marvin Gardens (1972)



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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 25.11.12

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Robert Webb

Peep Show
Channel 4, 10pm

There's a good reason why Peep Show is the longest-running sitcom in Channel 4's history. As well as being very, very funny, some people have found themselves in the unlikely position of caring about what happens to mismatched best mates, uptight, repressed Mark (David Mitchell) and selfish layabout Jeremy (Robert Webb). For those keeping track, the last series ended with Mark asking his girlfriend Dobby (Issie Sutie) to move in with him, which spelled the potential end of the "El Dude brothers". With Isy Suttie and Matt King.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets Alfie Boe. **11.00** Sunday Politics; Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.20** Countryfile. (R) **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) **3.00** Live Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix.

6.15 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
6.40 Countryfile.
7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Another couple perform their last dance.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. A second visit to the National Maritime Museum Cornwall. Items include early medical instruments, a work by sculptor Barbara Hepworth and a bronze horse with a remarkable history. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.
9.00 The Secret of Crickley Hall. Eve searches for answers, meeting a psychic who reluctantly agrees to hold a seance at the house. In 1943, Nancy learns about Cribben's punishment book and tries to get hold of it.
10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
10.25 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Chelsea v Manchester City.
11.45 The Graham Norton Show. With Helena Bonham Carter, Jack Whitehall, Michael Palin and Michael Buble. (R)
12.30 Weatherview. **12.35** Sign Zone: Film 2012. (R) **1.05** The Choir: Sing While You Work. (R) **2.05** Holby City. (R) **3.05** Paul Martin's Handmade Revolution. (R) **3.50** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Great British Bake Off Masterclass. (R) **12.30 Film:** Yellowstone Kelly. (1959) **2.00** International Rugby Union. **3.00 Film:** The Way We Were. (1973) **4.55** Songs of Praise. **5.30** Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve. (R)

6.30 Fawlty Towers. A loud-mouthed, abrasive American comes to stay at the hotel and soon exposes Basil's ignorance of transatlantic cuisine. (R)
7.00 Top Gear. Highlights from the show's 17th and 18th series, in which Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May got up to more motoring mischief. (R)
8.00 Return to Forgotten Britain. Part one of two. Fergal Keane follows up his 2000 series Forgotten Britain, in which he travelled the UK to meet people living in hard-pressed communities.
9.00 Dragons' Den. Ideas and innovations include a gadget for carrying a round of drinks back from the bar, a website for retirees, a gizmo to reduce food waste and a car that is also a barbecue.
10.00 Harry & Paul. Ken and Bryan have an acrimonious split in the Dragons' Den.
10.30 Hebburn. Jack and Sarah prepare for their marriage blessing ceremony. Last in the series. (R)
11.00 The Rolling Stones: Charlie Is My Darling. Film documenting the band's gigs in Belfast and Dublin in September 1965.
12.05 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R) **12.35 Film:** Awaydays. (2009) **2.15** BBC News. **3.45** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Engie Benjy. **6.10** Jungle Junction. **6.25** Jungle Junction. **6.35** Signed Stories. (R) **6.45** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **7.25** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.35** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.00** Big Time Rush. **8.30** Good Luck Charlie. **9.00** Good Luck Charlie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **10.25** Dinner Date. (R) **11.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35 Film:** Carry On Camping. (1969) **2.15** The X Factor. (R) **4.00** The Home of Fabulous Cakes. **5.00** The Nation's Favourite Number 1 Single. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.45 ITV News; Weather.
7.00 Surprise Surprise. Olly Murs and Ed Sheeran spring surprises on fans, and two child carers receive a sporting treat from gold medal-winning kayaker Ed McKeever. Last in the series.
8.00 The X Factor Results. The acts find out who has made it through to the semi-final.
9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec reveal which contestant will be leaving the jungle. Plus, the usual round-up of highlights from the past 24 hours.
10.30 ITV News; Weather.
10.45 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Kelly Osbourne. The reality TV star discusses her life and past battle with drugs. Last in the series. (R)
11.45 Premiership Rugby Union. Including highlights of Bath v Harlequins.
12.40 The Store; ITV News Headlines. **2.45** Motorsport UK. **3.35** Nightscreen. **5.30** News.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Channel 4 Presents – Nathan. (R) **6.05** The Treacle People. (R) **6.15** The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** Extreme Sailing Series. **7.35** Channel 4 Presents – Oscar. (R) **7.40** Sailing: America's Cup Discovered. (R) **8.05** Will & Grace. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Deal or No Deal. **2.35** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **3.05** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **3.40** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **4.10** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **4.40** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **5.10 Film:** Fred Claus. (2007)

7.20 Channel 4 News.
7.50 4thought.tv. An atheist's view that people of faith do not have a monopoly on moral values.
7.55 The Political Slot. Danny Alexander explains the Lib Dem campaign for fairer taxes.
8.00 How Britain Worked. Guy Martin helps with the restoration of Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Last in the series.
9.00 Homeland. Carrie stages a risky intervention to keep Brody in line.
10.00 Peep Show. New series. Return of the comedy starring Robert Webb and David Mitchell.
10.35 Kookyville.
11.10 Film: Down with Love. (2003) Romantic comedy set in the 1960s, starring Ewan McGregor and Renee Zellweger.
1.00 American Football Live. **4.45** Grudge Match. (R) **4.55** Countdown. (R) **5.40** Make Do & Mend. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Olive the Ostrich. **6.50** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Animal Antics. (R) **7.25** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.35** Castle Farm. (R) **7.45** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. **8.35** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.50** Mio Mao. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** ThunderCats. **11.05** The Gadget Show. (R) **12.05** Rolf's Animal Clinic. (R) **1.05 Film:** I'll Be Home for Christmas. (1998) **2.45 Film:** Noel. (2004) **4.35 Film:** Mermaids. (1990)

6.20 Film: Superman. (1978) A superpowered alien is evacuated from his doomed planet and crash-lands on Earth, becoming a crusader for justice. Adventure, with Christopher Reeve.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Film: Dirty Harry. (1971) Thriller, starring Clint Eastwood and Andy Robinson.
11.10 Hatfields & McCoys. The two clans come face to face in a gunfight at Grapevine Creek. Last in the series. (R)
12.05 War Hero in My Family. (R) **1.05** SuperCasino. **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Formula 1: The Brazilian Grand Prix – Highlights **8.00** Gavin & Stacey **8.30** Snog, Marry, Avoid? **9.00** Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents **10.00** Him & Her **10.30** American Dad! **11.15** Family Guy

BBC Four
7.00 Timeshift: The Golden Age of the Tram – A Streetcar Named Desire **8.00** Michael Wood: The Story of India **9.00** Why Poverty? Give Us the Money **10.00 Film:** Even the Rain (2010) **11.35** Michael Wood: The Story of India

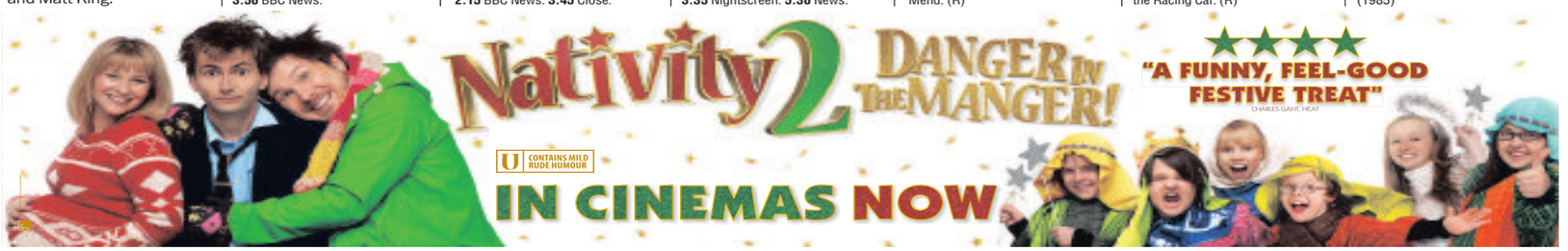
ITV2
3.15 Film: Garfield (2004) **4.55** Take Me Out **6.05** Take Me Out – The Gossip **6.55 Film:** Batteries Not Included (1987) **9.00** Xtra Factor Results **10.00** Benidorm **10.30** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.35** Cheryl: Live in Concert

ITV3
2.55 A Touch of Frost **5.05** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Lewis. A college quiz weekend leads to murder. Alan Davies guest stars. **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Cracker

ITV4
2.45 Film: Morning Departure (1950) **4.50 Film:** For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** Jaws (1975) **11.35 Film:** American Gangster (2007)

E4
3.35 New Girl **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** X-Men: The Last Stand (2006) **10.00** Misfits **11.05** 2 Broke Girls **11.35** The Big Bang Theory

Film4
3.10 Carry On Teacher (1959) **5.00** Miracle on 34th Street (1947) **6.55** Dear John (2010) **9.00** Don't Say a Word (2001) **11.15** Prizzi's Honor (1985)



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Teeth made in Dudley

From start to finish

THE principal of a dental clinic is championing a 'Teeth Made in Dudley' campaign for his dentures which have attracted patients from as far away as Spain and Portugal.

His nationally acclaimed prosthetics, prescribed and crafted on the premises in his North Street practice, have also found satisfied people from Dorset, the Isle of Anglesey, the Isle of Skye and London.

Steven Burchell DipCDT RSC(Eng), who first made headlines as "the smile mechanic" ten years ago, has established one of the most high-profile clinics in the West Midlands for his work in resolving denture problems. And the secret of his success, which this year has seen the Denture Clinic buck the national trend and undertake a £1m expansion investment? A seamless service to clients, where they are clinically assessed and have their prescription hand-crafted "all under one roof."

"It's a simple formula," says Steve, "but it has allowed me to be fastidious about the quality of teeth we supply.

"Embracing the disciplines of general dentistry and our specialism in dentures and their manufacture under one roof makes us very different."

Recalling some of his patients, who have literally travelled thousands of miles to have teeth made at the clinic, he says: "In many cases we were their last hope of resolving their problems with our made-in-Dudley teeth."

"We will never compromise on best clinical outcomes," adds Steve. Recently, the clinic has purchased two cutting-edge injection moulding machines which offer patients pin-point fitting accuracy. Steve draws on more than 30 years' experience in all disciplines of dental technology to produce his hallmark "functional, natural-looking teeth."

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What's On!

Film Choices

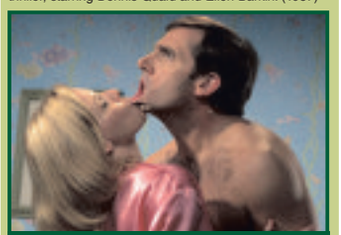
MONDAY

The Patriot, Channel 5, 9pm
A retired soldier takes up arms once more to avenge the unprovoked murder of his son at the hands of the British during the American War of Independence – and finds himself up against a sadistic officer wreaking havoc in the surrounding area. Roland Emmerich's action adventure, starring Mel Gibson, Jason Isaacs, Heath Ledger and Joely Richardson. (2000)

The English Patient, BBC1, 11.20pm
The enigmatic, badly burned survivor of a Second World War plane crash is tended by a French-Canadian nurse in a derelict Italian monastery. He tells her the story of his passionate love affair with a married Englishwoman. Anthony Minghella's Oscar-winning romantic drama, starring Ralph Fiennes, Kristin Scott Thomas, Juliette Binoche and Willem Dafoe. (1996)

TUESDAY

The Big Easy, BBC1, 12.10am
A New Orleans homicide detective begins a sexually charged affair with a zealous female district attorney appointed to investigate allegations of corruption in his department – but their relationship is jeopardised when his bribe-taking comes to light and she faces the responsibility of prosecuting him. Romantic crime thriller, starring Dennis Quaid and Ellen Barkin. (1987)



The 40 Year Old Virgin, Wednesday, ITV1, 10.35pm

WEDNESDAY

The 40 Year Old Virgin, ITV1, 10.35pm
A middle-aged shop worker reveals he has never been intimate with a woman, which prompts his shocked colleagues to set him up. When he falls for a single mother, his friends think he is right on course for a lusty liaison, but his new partner is not ready for a physical relationship. Comedy, starring Steve Carell. (2005)

THURSDAY

Pineapple Express, Channel 5, 10pm
A pot-smoking slacker witnesses a gangland murder and accidentally leaves a joint containing rare marijuana at the scene of the crime. Realising this means they can be traced, he and his dealer go on the run – but their drug-induced paranoia proves a handicap. Action comedy, starring Seth Rogen and James Franco. (2008)

FRIDAY

Mad Max 2, ITV1, 11.05pm
A former cop haunted by his tragic past roams the wasteland of Australia in the aftermath of a nuclear war. He arrives at a besieged settlement and grudgingly helps protect the residents from a horde of marauding bikers who want to get hold of their valuable supply of petrol. Adventure sequel, starring Mel Gibson. (1981)

Pick of the Week

Tale of brothers who are young at heart

Just a few years ago, Tony and Christine Clark were living the high life.

Their parenting days were long gone, they had a pleasant ex-pat life in Spain and a long and happy retirement ahead of them – or so they thought.

As it turned out, the deteriorating health of their two sons forced them back to the UK.

The Curious Case of the Clark Brothers (Channel 4, 9pm) outlines the plight of Matthew, who's 39, and Michael, 42. They suffer from an age-defying disease that's made them regress to childhood in front of Tony and Christine's eyes – reminiscent of Brad Pitt's character Benjamin Button in the 2008 film.

Devastating as it is, the two brothers were fine until their late thirties and had lived completely healthy, normal lives. But what they didn't realise was that their brains were carrying a deadly psychological time bomb; a rare and little-known condition called leukodystrophy.

The condition causes a progressive loss of every neurological function – speech, memory, movement, sight, hearing, touch, eating and swallowing – meaning they need round-the-clock care from Tony and Christine.

After abandoning their once mapped-out life abroad, Tony and Christine now live in a cramped one-bedroom flat, where they keep a constant eye on their 'boys'.

Having watched both men marry, and Matthew become a father, and Michael join the RAF, the condition is simply heartbreaking for Tony and Christine.

Earlier this year, Tony explained to the Daily Mail: "There are no words to describe how we feel. It's devastating.

"Christine and I lay on the sofa each night and the tears flow very freely. Our biggest fear is that they will outlive us and then who will look after them?"

He goes on to explain just what day-to-day living is like with the boys.

"When Matthew wakes up, he is in a state of confusion and throws himself about. He looks afraid, and says: 'Mummy, help me;?" he explains.

"Michael is the opposite. He wakes up happy and the first thing he does is blow a cheeky raspberry at us.

"The boys are unable to dress themselves, so we get them ready and then we do something to get Matthew's mind focused again, like playing a board game.

"Mealtimes are a bit of a challenge. They make a hell of a mess between them. It's very much like feeding two toddlers. Michael holds the fork too near the prongs and spills it."

However, when all is said and done, a parent's love will never falter, no matter how different or difficult the child.

"It's very hard. Seeing what has happened to them is so painful for us," Christine explains. "We just want to make them as happy as they can be. We're their parents and they need us."

This fascinating programme follows their traumatic everyday life as these two devastated parents watch their grown-up sons become young boys again in adult bodies.



The Curious Case of the Clark Brothers, Monday, Channel 4, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

The All New Gadget Show
Channel 5, 8pm
Before you part with your hard-earned cash for the latest piece of consumer hardware, you want to know it's been tested against the rest of the goods on the market to make sure you're getting a good deal. Those Which? guides are all well and good, but for sheer entertainment value, you can't beat Jason Bradbury and Pollyanna Woodward, who promise to put products through their paces like no one else.This week, they're in Switzerland, where they put smart TVs to the test – by recreating the opening stunt of GoldenEye to get some suitable HD footage. There's a decidedly high-end mobile phone under scrutiny, too – which costs a whopping £130,000.

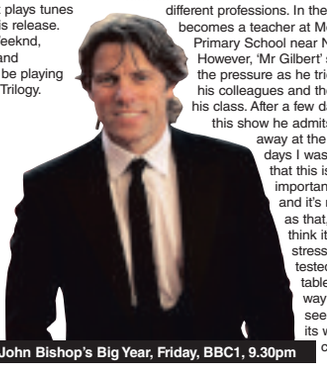
Never Mind the Buzzcocks
BBC2, 10pm
Some things go together like bacon and eggs, and Eric and Ernie. However, for many of us hooked on the madcap partnership of Faith and Fielding, it's a crushing fact that Paloma and Noel don't appear on TV together more often. The good news is they're back together at last for this week's show hosted by musical comedian Alex Horne and his band the Horne Section. Olympic gymnast and Strictly Come Dancing star Louis Smith is among the guests joining team captains Fielding and Phill Jupitus. Given the success of previous editions with guest hosts Tim Minchin, Josh Groban and Terry Wogan, we can only hope they have also been booked for return appearances as well.

TUESDAY

Later Live – with Jools Holland
BBC2, 10pm
In the summer of 2011, Lana Del Rey's Video Games was launched onto an unsuspecting world, and sounded like nothing you'd heard before or since. It helped that Lana looked like a Hollywood movie star, so editors fell over themselves to put her on the cover of countless magazines. Now she'll be performing tracks from the expanded Paradise Edition of her Born to Die album. Palma Violets make their TV debut on the show, and soul singer and Labelle founder member Nona Hendryx plays tunes from her recent Mutatis Mutandis release. As the series concludes, The Weeknd, AKA Canadian R'n'B musician and producer Abel Tesfaye, will also be playing tracks from his new long-player Trilogy.

WEDNESDAY

Secret State
Channel 4, 10pm
Chances are that any drama, be it political or not, with Gabriel Byrne cast in the lead role, you're on to a winner. But throw in a cast list that boasts the likes of Ruth Negga and Rupert Graves and this has proved nothing short of gripping viewing. Of course, like all good things the series must come to an end, so you're not going to want to miss this final instalment. Agnes is desperate to get in touch with Dawkins following the attack on Anthony Fossett – she needs to make sure he's clued up about what brought down the prime minister's plane, and he takes drastic steps to stick to his principles.



John Bishop's Big Year, Friday, BBC1, 9.30pm

THURSDAY

Rhod Gilbert's Work Experience
BBC2, 10pm
The acclaimed stand-up comedian is back for a new series of shows in which he tries out different professions. In the opener he becomes a teacher at Monnow Primary School near Newport. However, 'Mr Gilbert' soon feels the pressure as he tries to impress his colleagues and the children in his class. After a few days of making this show he admits he was 'torn away at the end.' "In three days I was convinced that this is the most important job on Earth, and it's not regarded as that," he explains. "I think it's very stressful; people are tested and league-tabled. I hate the way it's done. It seems to go out of its way to stifle any creativity."

FRIDAY

Attenborough: 60 Years in the Wild
BBC2, 9pm
If there's one person you never thought would be shame-faced about any aspect of his career, it's David Attenborough. He's spent 60 years travelling the globe to bring viewers footage of amazing animals living in environments most of us will never get to visit in person. But as he points out, conservation now is a very different activity to what it was back in the 1950s when he began his on-screen career. Here, Attenborough goes back to the very beginning, to his years on Zooquest, when his travels involved him collecting wild animals for London Zoo. This is a fascinating edition of the series – in fact, the only bad thing about it is it's also the last one.

John Bishop's Big Year
BBC1, 9.30pm
You could be forgiven, after reading the title of this programme, that it's all about what John Bishop got up to during 2012. But in fact, he's taking a look back at 2012 in general – and what an amazing period it was. Even if only the Olympics had taken place, it would have been a great year, but add that to the Paralympics and the Queen's Golden Jubilee, and you've got something very special indeed. But bad – or at least disappointing – things occurred too, including the continuation of the recession. Bishop's response to all these events, and more, has been filmed as a stand-up routine performed in front of a live studio audience – and rather hilarious it is, too.

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Brain Gym No.196

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

11	8	21	2			19			7	8 L	21	15
	26			15	8	25	20	13		21 O		4
7	20	25	24	8		13		17	20	18	24	3
	6			25		24		20		15		15
	16	17	1	3	22	25	6	9		20	21	19
24				7		8				12		14
6	25	7	14	15	19		7	10	17	15	25	8
15		14				15		17				26
3	15	25		6	16	25	19	24	7	1	25	
24		1		25		14		23			23	
6	19	24	15	19		15		15	20	5	21	26
9		20		15	19	19	21	19			24	
7	8	25	3			26			14	24	13	15

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
W	U	Z	N	X	E	F	G	B	J	V	Y	L
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
D	O	Q	A	R	K	T	I	S	P	M	H	C

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8 L	21 O
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Distrait Roman becomes governor (13)
8. Use different photo outside to show the roof (8)
9. Call your friend inside (4)
10. It's clear Pennsylvania needs camping accommodation (6)
12. Prizes that create dissension in advertisements (6)
14. The ore is broken up for this object (6)
16. The strain associated with the work of a constructional engineer (6)
18. Show need for reviving the standard (4)
20. The sort of methods that will offer no opening to the men at the front! (4-4)
22. He should see that his pupils produce good notes (7-6)

Down

1. Recommend a lawyer (8)
2. Kind of paper to circulate after tea! (6)
3. Part of the weapon to strike about fifty (4)
4. Check the openings for substitutes (4-4)
5. Country girl has ability first (6)
6. Kitty is game (4)
11. Musically speaking, it may be successfully operated on a sliding scale (8)
13. Find a record bowling spell (8)
15. Employ one to go into battle (6)
17. Salad food causes Diana to be surrounded with spots! (6)
19. Eggs are put face upwards! (4)
21. Make a thorough search for a toilet requisite (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Remonstrance (13)
8. Abridges (8)
9. Assert (4)
10. Additional building (6)
12. End (6)
14. Meal (6)
16. Hark (6)
18. Demonstrate (4)
20. Drug (8)
22. Book of information (13)

Down

1. Swap (8)
2. Prescribed series (6)
3. Inflamed eyelid (4)
4. Rapturous (8)
5. Stress (6)
6. Solitary (4)
11. Involve (8)
13. Definite (8)
15. Ever (6)
17. Purloined (6)
19. Suspend (4)
21. Mature (4)

	1		2		3		4		5		6													
7																								
8									9															
10					11		12				13													
14			15				16		17															
18	19				20		21																	
22																								

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Clef; 8 Locomotive; 9 Dentures; 10 Aura; 12 Mashed; 14 Digest; 15 Purser; 17 Saturn; 18 Peep; 19 Full-face; 21 Shipwrecks; 22 Hide. Down: 2 Literature; 3 Flat; 4 Scored; 5 Amused; 6 Straight; 7 Hera; 11 Restricted; 13 Hose-pipe; 16 Reform; 17 Solace; 18 Pose; 20 Fish. QUICK - Across: 1 Quit; 8 Inimitable; 9 Man-eater; 10 Dark; 12 Silver; 14 Enable; 15 Sinner; 17 Preach; 18 Brag; 19 Jeremiad; 21 Correction; 22 Deep. Down: 2 Unfamiliar; 3 Tire; 4 Bitter; 5 Fierce; 6 Hardware; 7 Peak; 11 Reluctance; 13 Vinegary; 16 Reject; 17 Permit; 18 Back; 20 Mend.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

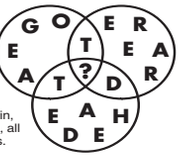
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7				4	3			
	4	8			6		9	5
1			5		9	7		
5						6	2	
	2			1			5	
	8	4						1
		5	8		2			6
2	3		4	9		5		
			6					2

5	9	4	6	3	7	2	1	8
2	3	1	4	5	8	7	6	9
6	8	7	2	9	1	5	3	4
7	1	2	9	4	6	3	8	5
3	6	8	1	7	5	9	4	2
9	4	5	3	8	2	6	7	1
1	5	9	8	6	3	4	2	7
8	7	3	5	2	4	1	9	6
4	2	6	7	1	9	8	5	3

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is L. Dolphin, narwhal, sea lion, all marine mammals.

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£575 PCM


STOURBRIDGE, SANDON ROAD
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£525 PCM


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£475 PCM


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CRADLEY HEATH, LUANNE CLOSE
This lovely unfurnished ground floor apartment, with views over the canal and on a popular development, comprising of: One Bedroom, Spacious Lounge with Patio Doors onto a Private Balcony, Fitted Kitchen with Small Fridge and Washing Machine, Gas Central Heating, Bathroom with Shower, Allocated Parking, Communal Garden
£425 PCM


ROWLEY REGIS, WINCHESTER CLOSE
A very well presented, unfurnished first floor apartment, close to the M5 J2, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Double Glazing, Bathroom with Shower, Parking Space and Parking Area for Visitors, Communal gardens
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NEW
HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY
A spacious fully refurbished first floor apartment on the ever popular Homer Hill estate, briefly comprising of: One Double Bedrooms, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Unfurnished. Available Immediately. Highly Recommended.
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OLDBURY, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD
This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking to Rear, Unfurnished £400 for the 1st 6 months and £425 after
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Taylor Wimpey has many developments throughout the West Midlands

Trio of awards for developer

TAYLOR Wimpey, which is building new homes in Birmingham, Telford, Warwickshire, West Midlands and Worcestershire, was awarded a trio of prestigious industry accolades at the 2012 Housebuilder Awards last week.

The company was crowned Large Housebuilder of the Year and also achieved joint first place in the Best Product category for its innovative 'Room in the Roof' system, developed in conjunction with Prestoplan.

Taylor Wimpey was also Highly Commended in the Marketing category for its Mortgage Myths and First Time Buyer Guides.

The annual Housebuilder Awards recognise excellence across the housebuilding industry.

Nearly 500 people attended a glittering awards ceremony at London's Tower Hotel on November 8 to witness Radio 4 Today presenter Justin Webb announce this year's winners.

Elaine Taylor, regional sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey West Midlands, commented: "We are delighted that our achievements have been recognised by these prestigious awards.

"We are committed to excellence in the design and construction of the homes we build, the quality of the locations we choose and the service and assistance we provide to our customers.

"These three awards are testament to the hard work and dedication of our whole team, who can all be justly proud of our success."

Taylor Wimpey West Midlands currently has high-quality new homes for sale at the following developments across the region:

WEST MIDLANDS
Saddlers Brook, Walsall. Call 0845 672 4132.
Himley View, Tansey Green. Call 0845 239 0107.
Primrose Gardens, Netherton. Call 0845 026 4012.
The Boulevard, Coventry. Call 0845 026 4089.
The Promenade, Coventry. Call 0845 026 4089.
The Chesterfields, Coventry. Call 0845 676 0243.
Woodland View, Coventry. Call 0845 026 5738.

TELFORD
The Meadows, Telford. Call 0845 071 8846.

BIRMINGHAM
Cedar Drive, Oldbury. Call 0845 071 8723.

WORCESTERSHIRE
The Cornfields, Wythall. Call 0845 026 5345.
Farrington Parade, Worcester. Call 0845 026 5010.
Willow Brook, Alvechurch. Call 0845 672 4060.

WARWICKSHIRE
Poppy Meadow, Stratford-Upon-Avon. Call 0845 071 4754.
The Hathaways, Stratford-Upon-Avon.
Call 0845 072 6507.
Caldecott Manor, Rugby. Call 0845 071 4611.

Further information about Taylor Wimpey developments across the region is available by calling 0121 703 3400 or at www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/westmids

Modern feel to to barn in rural position


Berriman Eaton is handling the sale of this converted barn in a semi-rural position at Gospel End, Sedgley

AN impressive four-bedroom barn conversion in a semi-rural location but with easy access to both Sedgley and Wombourne is for sale based on offers around £395,000.

Number 3 Wood Farm Barns, in Gospel End Road, Sedgley, has been converted in contemporary style, including oak flooring to the hall, sitting room and landings, oak open-tread staircases, hardwood double glazing and gas central heating including underfloor heating throughout the ground floor.

The accommodation is entered through double doors to an impressive dining hall and guest cloakroom, and leading to a spacious sitting room and fitted breakfast kitchen with cream fronted units with contrasting drawers and integrated appliances including twin Bosch electric ovens, gas hob, frisdge freezer and dishwasher.

A winding oak staircase from the hall lads to a large landing with study area and on to a master bedroom with en-suite shower room, further double bedroom and luxury family bathroom.

The second floor has a wealth of exposed timbers and includes two more double bedrooms and a shower room.

The property is approached along a half-mile shared road which leads to a private block paved drive providing ample parking with an adjacent lawned area.

The rear garden includes a block paved patio area with lawn.

Within easy reach of the property are Baggeridge Country Park, Sedgley Golf Club and Penn Common with an extensive selection of walks.

Call Berriman Eaton on 01902 326366

Extended detached with traditional look

A SUBSTANTIALLY extended and very spacious traditional bay fronted detached house in Wall Heath Village is for sale priced at £334,950.

The property in Lynwood Avenue is in a cul-de-sac in a sought after address, ideally placed for the area's highly regarded local schooling.

The house has two separate reception rooms, four good sized bedrooms – the master with a luxury en-suite shower room – conservatory extension and large landscaped rear garden.

On the ground floor the lounge, 13ft 5in by 11ft 6in, has a living flame gas fire with pine wood mantel and marble style hearth, while the dining room is 11ft 11in by 11ft 5in with a living flame gas fire with period style feature fireplace surround with black granite style hearth.

Integrated

A conservatory, 10ft 6in by 10ft 4in, has doors to the rear garden while the re-fitted dining kitchen – 17ft by 13ft 10in – has a range of Shaker style units with roll edge work surfaces, one-and-a-half bowl sink drainer unit with mixer tap, integrated dishwasher, hob with cooker hood above and double oven with the dining area having a recess for an American style fridge freezer and pull-out larder cupboards.

On the first floor bedroom one has an en suite with white suite comprising shower cubicle, vanity unit with inset wash basin and WC and there are three more bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite of roll top style bath, corner shower cubicle, pedestal wash basin and WC.

Outside the house is set back behind a front garden with a large tarmac driveway providing off road parking for several vehicles and leading to a garage, while the rear garden has a paved patio, garden store and steps up to an extensive lawn with apple trees, borders with shrubs, paved seating area and summerhouse.

Call Taylors on 01384 401777 for more details or to view this property.



This traditional bay fronted detached is in Lynwood Avenue, Wall Heath Village



The conservatory extension which looks out on to the large garden at the rear



One of the four good-sized bedrooms at the large detached home

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12 FLAT E, 24 HIGH STREET, LYE, STOURBRIDGE, WEST MIDLANDS DY9 8LB Leasehold Vacant Residential £16,000 - £20,000
13 75 KELFIELD AVENUE, HARBORNE, BIRMINGHAM, B17 0QL Freehold Vacant Residential ..... £88,000 - £94,000
14 53 STAFFORD STREET, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS DY1 2AB Vacant Commercial ..... £90,000 - £105,000
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38 124A KING WILLIAM STREET, STOURBRIDGE, WEST MIDLANDS DY8 4ES Freehold Vacant Commercial ... £60,000 - £65,000
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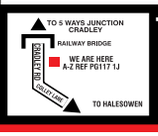
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KOREAN carmaker SsangYong has announced a range of new offers on selected models this winter including the Korando 4x4 crossover and Rodius MPV.

Prices start at £16,995 for the Korando, including a five-year limitless mileage warranty on every vehicle.

Finance at 0 per cent is available on Korando EX manual and automatic models, with 36, 48 and 60-month payment plans.

A Korando EX manual can be driven away for £169 per month. Five years' free servicing is also available on all Korando ES, EX manual and EX automatics when financed.

A similar deal is available on the seven-seat Rodius MPV. From as little as £129 a month, there's 0 per cent APR over 60 months.

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KENNETH HILL (Deceased)
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APARTMENTS New two bed. Dudley and Wolverhampton centre. £395pcm 0121 522 3477

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ARLENE blonde, educated, worldly travelled, loves to live and enjoy life to the full, no preconceived expectations just looking for someone nice.



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NICK male, 56, 5ft 9ins, medium build, seeks attractive, local female for friendship/relationship.

SINGLE LADIES

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125. Or call 0906 635 0510.

(T&C's below)

CLARE 38, single mum, curvy hour glass, loves to be tactile, OHAC, WLTM caring male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047**

PAULA 37, WLTM male companion for meals out, social drinking, weekends away, hopefully leading to a meaningful friendship with benefits! Any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398503**

MICHELLE 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398349**

CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127**

HI I'm Marilyn a blue eyed beauty. Call me if you have a happy outlook and are seeking some fun. Age/looks unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395665**

SUE confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397485**

MARIA French female looking for mutually convenient companionship, very friendly, very discreet and very interested in meeting with you! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397451**

PETITE 50yr old likes reading, gardening, outdoors, walking, cycling, seeks companion, 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393160**

KATHERINE 38, attractive, single, very lonely and looking for love, fun and male companionship. Pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397123**

HI I'm Natalie 24, pretty, friendly, single, seeking energetic man for romantic walks, cosy nights in and fun-loving relationship. Any age/looks/race. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397489**

TINA young attractive 27yr old single female looking for older friendly loving male for adult fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397563**

BEV 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397535**

TRACY 26, pretty petite brunette, possibly looking for LTR but definitely looking for fun times with outgoing guy. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397027**

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTM male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681**

LUCY beautiful big bottomed black female, very tactile, seeks mature honest white male for loving fun times. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397389**

CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837**

NATASHA single professional 39yr old brunette looking for fun and friendship with genuine guy, 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395719**

WIDOW 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387013**

TRISH tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves tlc, WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397579**

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407**

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTM male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376165**

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317**

ALICIA 19yr old green eyed female, very attractive, slim, long hair, independent, looking for fun with mature male, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390059**

I'M Julie 36yrs old, attractive, fit, blonde, solvent with OHAC seeking man to spoil and enjoy good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395051**

EASYGOING down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386893**

LADY young 60, outgoing, friendly, smart, likes cinema, shopping, meals out, seeks similar female friends for days out and evenings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387117**

PAULINE attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 379535**

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979**

KAREN witty female who loves to laugh, WLTM similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393125**

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883**

BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501**

SUSIE gorgeously feminine and sensual, loves lazy summer days, misses male companionship WLTM someone with sense of adventure and lust for life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394117**

LOUISE youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392491**

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old girl looking for fun. Can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363277**

JOY 36 petite medium build, blue eyes, loves romantic walks, meals in/out, WLTM male 30-45 for meets. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386629**

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818**

CATHY is a slim attractive lady with an open-minded attitude to life, she WLTM a man of any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395657**

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409**

SLIM male, seeks lady 35-45, size 12-18, GSOH for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394591**

CHRIS attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392401**

LOUISE 35, loves meals out, wltm tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395727**

MICHELLE attractive 30's female, blonde, leggy and very much single, seeking quality company, hopefully more with nice romantic male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395717**

CAROLINE 42yrs, slim attractive blonde. Varied interests and solvent. WLTM honest male of any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395675**

FARMER'S granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WLTM countryman/bachelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387204**

BUBBLY female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes outdoors, cinema, theatre, meals out, seeks likeminded male/soul mate, 40-50. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 357919**

VICKY honest caring female 33yrs, GSOH, loves meals in/out, travel, cinema, WLTM someone to enjoy nice things in life with and romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383911**

DENISE tall leggy good looking single mum, easygoing, enjoys night's in/out, animals, WLTM tall male for fun times possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391873**

JENNY blue eyed cuddly independent female, loves countryside, animals, cooking, WLTM older male to spoil and look after. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378481**

MAUREEN seeks male 32-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 323543**

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325**

SHAPELY attractive, light skinned black female, 39, seeks attractive, fit, male, 30's, builder type, tanned, rugged for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 231152**

SLIM attractive, self-sufficient lady, 44, GSOH, seeks special male, 35-50 to share evening in/out, theatre, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 351813**

FEMALE kind, giving, thoughtful, sensitive, seeks lifetime friend to love and understand me for who I am. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 350397**

LADY widow, 58, slim, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks smart, intelligent, easygoing man with GSOH who enjoys conversations, days out, short breaks, meals out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387247**

SALLY slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTM similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393469**

MADDIE extremely passionate female 37, seeks reliable male to enjoy the finer things in life and tactile relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394565**

PAULINE divorced female on the wrong side of 40 looking for adult fun with easygoing highly driven man if you get my drift? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394463**

ANNA 29yr old nurse, 6ft curvy auburn beauty, likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking older, well built male to look after, 40-69yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375139**

GENUINE female, 36, brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH, looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good companion, dates and romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388327**

42YR old Sagittarian 5ft 7ins, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks genuine, caring guy interested in films, meals out, country walks, gardening and travel, 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 358399**

JESSIE single mum 24 looking for her Mr Right for equally respectful relationship, hopefully blossoming into love. Single dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382087**

SUE 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223**

FRIENDLY black female, attractive, 46, single mum, professional, seeks attractive, solvent, trendy, professional, genuine male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 349865**

HELEN 34yr old single mum slim intelligent, seeks nice male for adult companionship with good potential for a great relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394121**

PATRICIA 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378207**

JAN lonely divorced female with older children looking for male for mature/adult companionship without ties. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394663**

SARAH nice looking blue eyed slim brunette, WLTM similar lonely male for fun times hopefully leading to ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394575**

39YR old single female, hurt in past, animal lover, likes most things, seeking genuine man for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386887**

CLARE good looking, beautiful blonde, seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378209**

SAMANTHA pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a really lust for life, seeks big-hearted stocky male/dad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395035**

YVONNE lonely 32yr old single mum of one, slim, brown hair, WLTM discreet male for mutual attention without complications. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395027**

STACEY young 20yr old looking for fun. Call me to find out more. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382091**

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde, 45, seeks honest, caring, genuine male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 349651**

OUTGOING sociable young female, 33, average looks, likes pubs, clubs, bowling, cinema, seeks gent, 33-45. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 362769**

FEMALE likes meals out, cinema, nights in, seeks male for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361871**

72YR old widower, smart, likes travel, conversation, dancing, cooking, missing that special man in her life who is easygoing and N/S. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 349265**

ATTRACTIVE Tall, black female, 51, 6ft, slim-medium build, kind, honest, considerate, own home, seeks genuine, tall, faithful, 6ft plus male, 45-70 with own home for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 349211**

MICHELLE black British, 30, curvy, slim, size 12, 5ft 5ins, sociable, friendly, understanding, loving, seeks male, 30-36 to enjoy romantic nights. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 317945**

JANE 46, single mum, N/S, romantic, likes dancing, nights out, music, seeking male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380591**

SINGLE MEN

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125. (T&C's below).

FRIENDLY guy 49, tall, fit, GSOH, attractive, seeks lady for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399091**

TAYLOR 50, tall, athletic, GSOH, WLTM female, attractive, curvy for friendship, maybe more, food, communication, evenings out, travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399067**

IAN 60, seeks active Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime fun and mutual pleasure. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399003**

DAVID 40, genuine, down to earth, seeking someone for nights out and great times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398889**

32YR old slim, dark haired, adventurous, creative, likes music, bike rides, country walks and photography, seeks likeminded female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

MALE 70's, honest, caring, attractive, likes socialising, seeks smart, attractive, caring lady for meetings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397975**

DAVID slightly disabled, likes sports, meals out, nights in, seeks female for fun, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393192**

LOOKING for love. Telford male, 46, shaved head, average build, likes walks, meals out, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397941**

STEVE 49, fed up, seeking female for fun and friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393218**

57YR old male, good looking, seeking female for fun times and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397463**

GARY 39, seeks female, 30-50 for LTR and fun. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398747**

RAYMOND 6ft, mid 70's, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks caring lady for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398695**

63YR old male, fit, likes cooking/baking, tennis, seeks female, 37-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398825**

GENT mid 70's, seeks genuine lady, 65 plus for outings, holidays etc. leading to relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398575**

59YR old male, 5ft 8ins, seeks younger lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392908**

IAN 44, single dad, loving, caring, honest, seeks similar female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392874**

MALE 70's widow, kind, honest, caring, likes socialising, holidays, nights in/out, seeks loving female for respectful, caring relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393559**

GENUINE male, 43, brown eyes, 5ft 10ins, outgoing, adventurous, seeks slim-average build female, 30-40. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396289**

TALL male, 64, vitality and brain, seeks lady for discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398235**

GOOD looking 48yr old male, GSOH, honest, caring, loyal, hurt in past, looking for loving female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394159**

TALL dark, good looking male, 53, seeks attractive female for daytime fun and exciting times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393380**

PAUL 47, short brown hair, blue/green eyes, 6ft, slim, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393456**

MALE fun, outgoing, easy-going, seeking female for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393346**

PAUL 60, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397679**

ROY 62, tall, fit, loyal, N/S, looking for that special lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397637**

INDIAN male, UK born, seeks white English female, 35-45 to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397509**

JAMES 56, 5ft 9ins, professional, OHAC, independent, no ties, seeking loving relationship with likeminded woman. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397473**

JOE 45, GSOH, attractive, medical professional, seeks female for daytime fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396671**

GOOD looking male, early 50's, 6ft, farmer, outgoing, fun loving, seeking attractive fun loving female, 25-35 who enjoys travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393340**

55YR old male, likes sports, film, nights in, seeking female, 30-45 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398049**

GENT 54, slightly mad but not bad will make you glad you answered this ad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398231**

STEVEN 49, good looking, likes a laugh, pubs, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397985**

GAY SINGLES

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to meet or chat to other men, look no further. TXT: **GAY247** to **65125**

www.localgaydate.co.uk

CD from Dudley, seeking similar of any age for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393450**

CD 70 plus seeking CD 70 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393208**

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892**

GAY male, 34, slim, toned, seeking older guy for fun, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395735**

MALE 44, seeking male, 18-23 for fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391626**

BI male, divorced, young, fit 50, own home/business, seeks male, 18-45 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391849**

MALE 58, youthful, serene nature, understanding, loyal, honest, seeks similar mature female for everlasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391833**

FRIENDS

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Setback is overcome to restore win habit

Old Silhillians Ladies 1
Old Halesonians Ladies 3

OLD HALESONIANS Ladies firsts got back to their winning ways as they battled back from a goal down to beat Old Sils.

Hales were 1-0 down at half-time, but second-half goals from Jenny Cooper, Stacey Twist and Dawn Lewis enabled them to secure the three points.

Old Hales 3 Telford & Wrekin 1

The seconds emerged victorious for the first time this season after a well-fought battle against a young Telford & Wrekin side.

Charles Palmer grabbed two goals for Hales in a tense, but entertaining 3-1 win.

Palmer opened the scoring after a fine spell of possession from the hosts when Tom Bolton's overlapping run left him a simple finish.

Telford levelled from a deflected penalty corner, but in the second half Old Hales' 15-year-old Ash Underhill forced the ball home for 2-1. Palmer's neat flick from an acute angle confirmed the win.

Barford Tigers 4
Old Halesonians Ladies 0

Two newly-formed teams in Worcestershire League Division Three faced each other for the first time in a heated encounter.

The home side took the lead early on and dominated the game.

But the match was cut short and abandoned when Hales ladies seconds' June Smallwood-Rose suffered a nasty injury when struck in the face.

Old Halsonians 1
Telford & Wrekin 1

Telford & Wrekin took the lead early in the game, only for Old Hales thirds to level through striker Adam Hill.

Telford had their best chance when winning a penalty flick, but it sailed over the crossbar.

Sutton Coldfield 4 OHHC 4

The fourths shared eight goals with a side one place higher in the league.

Nic Penn, Josh Thomas and Mike Link fired equalisers after Sutton led three times.

Mark O'Connell tapped in to put Hales ahead for the first time, but could not hold on for the win.

Old Silhillians 2
Old Halesonians 4

The fifths got their first win of the season.

Their goals came from Fady Jadayel, Joe Thorne, James Wakerley and Phil Cook.

Odemwingie's defensive run says it all

Albion 2 Chelsea 1

ALBION fans enjoyed so many wonders at The Hawthorns on Saturday, ***writes Martin Swain.***

Beating the European Champions, nestling fourth in the Premier League, a brand of football that continues to blend delightful craft with magnificent defence, deputies Boaz Myhill and Gabriel Tamas brilliantly stepping out of the shadows, Youssouf Mulumbu, beautifully-created goals, thinking 'Thank God we've got Long and not Torres' . . . on and on it went.

But perhaps nothing ignited The Hawthorns more than that Peter Odemwingie run. No, not the dart into the area which enabled the club's most successful striker of the Premier League age to score his 50th-minute headed winner.

The Baggies fans who were there will know the one I mean. Because when you've got Odemwingie sprinting back 70, 80 metres at full pelt just to shut down an opposition attack, well, you're on to something special.

There is no slight intended of Odemwingie, Albion's best match-winner since The Bomber hung up his boots, in highlighting his relish for the 'dirty work'.

As a princely goalscorer, he does prefer to be taking the ball in the other direction. However, it says everything about what is unfolding within the dressing room that even he has been caught up in the spirit of the moment.

Albion fans were roused as never before to see him display such application midway through the second half and The Hawthorns went on to play its own part in this landmark defeat of Chelsea.

This era has been coming for some time, links in a chain which reaches back, perhaps, to Gary Megson's vital breakthrough promotion to the Premier League's riches. Now, 10 years later, head coach Steve Clarke will be wary of proclaiming any kind of fulfilment.

The Baggies are well positioned to push on for a finish in the top eight, maybe the top six.

Chelsea would still have won were it not for Myhill's first major performance for the club. His three saves from Daniel Sturridge were one of the features of the day.

Albion's ability to absorb the opposition's phases of dominance is one of this team's great virtues.

Another is their ability to enjoy their own control and create goals of the highest quality. Zoltan Gera' disguised pass, which wrong-footed Chelsea's defence, must not be overlooked; nor the quality of cross it gave James Morrison time to deliver. But Shane Long's diving far post header was the crowning moment of a wonderful first goal.

The winner was even better and said everything about Albion's cohesion, composure and capacity to sting on the counter. Emerging from defence, Johan Olsson picked out Morrison with a pass which sent him accelerating forward.

Long moved wide and after an exchange of passes with Morrison and Odemwingie, delivered a precision cross devoured by the Nigerian. A great goal for great days.

Awards celebrate year of great achievements

SPORTSMEN and women from across the Black Country took to the red carpet at the Copthorne Hotel in Dudley for the 2012 Black Country Sport and Physical Activity Awards.

More than 200 guests helped to celebrate the achievements of the last 12 months. The awards are in their fourth year and Simon Hall, director of the Black Country BeActive Partnership, said the Olympics and Paralympics had inspired local people to get active.

There were 18 awards:

Disabled Sportsperson of the Year
Jordanne Whiley

The wheelchair tennis star reached the Wimbledon final with doubles partner Lucy Shuker and then won a bronze medal in the wheelchair tennis at the Paralympic Games in London.

Sportsperson of the Year
Kristian Thomas

Thomas, from Wednesfield, was part of the British gymnastics squad which won team bronze at the London 2012 Olympics.

In March this year, he was the all-round English champion.

Elvis Gordon Sports Personality of the Year
Kristian Thomas

Thomas also qualified for the Olympics all-round final and vault final.

Coach of the Year
Michelle Baker

Baker coaches gymnasts, including Thomas, at Earl's High, Halesowen. She also coaches in primary schools.

Newcomer of the Year
Karl Hinett

The 25-year-old from Tipton joined the army at the age of 17. He suffered 37 per cent burns in Iraq when his tank took a direct hit from a petrol-bomb.

Black Country sport awards

He raises cash for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, burns unit where he had skin grafts and operations over the course of five years.

He ran 52 marathons across the world in 2011 to raise cash, funding the feat solely out of his army pension.

Community Games Event of the Year
Tipton BMX

This took place at Victoria Park, Tipton and involved more than 100 young people.

Chair's Recognition Award
Sam Hayer

Hayer was a Field of Play group leader for the London 2012 Olympics weightlifting events. He also delivered the British Schools weightlifting championships at Oldbury Academy.

Unsung Hero
Michael Boddis

Boddis started playing cricket for Oldswinford in approximately 1966 as an opening batsman.

He is now the third team scorer, rarely missing a match, and also plays during the height of the holiday season.

Sport Maker of the Year
Ross Ensor

The Dudley College student has amassed more than 500 hours of volunteering activity. He also carried the Olympic Torch through Dudley.

Community Club of the Year
Gig Mill Swim School

The Stourbridge school's programme has grown extensively over the past 12 months with more than 1,000 people accessing the pool.

The club has a 12-month waiting list.

Young Sportsperson of the Year
Eleanor Simmonds

The Walsall Paralympics swimming star won two gold medals, a silver and a bronze at this year's Paralympics. Just as in Beijing, she was a darling of the crowds.

Physical Activity Initiative of the Year
Active Steps, Shree Ram Mandir Temple

A falls prevention programme at Shree Ram Mandir Temple in Walsall which focuses on people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds.



Jordanne Whiley collects her award from Simon Hall

Volunteer of the Year
Greg Silvester

Silvester, from Wolverhampton, gives his time to the sport of gymnastics. He has Down's Syndrome and is a role model for young people with a learning disability. A qualified gymnastics coach, he was chosen to be a Games Maker at the 2012 Paralympic Games and a board director for Special Olympics GB.

Team of the Year
RGK Sporting Club Rhinos

The wheelchair basketball team, whose roots are in Wolverhampton, feature a number of GB 2012 Paralympic players and are the first British team in 10 years to reach the Euros.

Sportivate Project of the Year
Get Active Go Fish

This Sandwell Academy project has helped normally non-sporty teenagers or those with low self-esteem to succeed through fishing. All those involved are keen to continue with the sport.

Sport Programme of the Year in an Educational Setting, Dudley College

The Volunteer and Leadership Academy programme gives learners the opportunity to study for additional qualifications and develop personal and social skills.

Young Volunteer of the Year
Jessica Purchase

Purchase, from Wolverhampton, commits over 20 hours a week to volunteering with the Wolves Community Kickz project and has contributed to reducing anti-social behaviour in the community by 60 per cent.

Business Contribution to Sport
Hadley Industries PLC

The Smethwick firm sponsor and assist local sports clubs, schools and organisations.

Stopper is man of the match with top saves

Boys league
Halas Hawks U9 North 0
Halas Hawks U9 East 0

GOOD saves by North keeper Ryan Wood kept East at bay.

In the second half Wood was quick off his line to block East's best chance.

A free-kick from North's Ben Pedley went just over.

North's man of the match was Wood while Tom Powell collected the East accolade.

Halas Hawks U10 East 5
Phoenix Youth U10 2

Halas led3-1 at the break with goals from Jack Whitehouse and Tommy Swancott (2).

The visitors pulled it back to 3-2, but goals from Harry Beasley and Jack Plant settled any nerves. Man of the match was Aston Loynes.

Halas Hawks U10 West 5
Wombourne Olympic U10 2

This win put Halas three points clear of their rivals, having played a game fewer.

They found their rhythm after the break with a goal from Altrin Alshiqi and a brace apiece for Harvey Brookes and Jake Adams.

Halas Hawks U11 North 3
FTK Juniors U11 1

Halas competed well from the first whistle, moving the ball around comfortably and scoring twice in the first half through Alan Bunce and Hayden Evans.

Evans doubled his tally after the break to secure the victory.

Hasbury Rangers U11 2
Halas Hawks U11 West 11

Halas went on a goal rampage and moved clear at the top of Division Two.

Hat-tricks from Casey Collins and Burhaan Sidiqi, by a brace from player of the match Sam Bulmer and one goal each from Kellan Parchment, Callum Brownhill and Louis Vasiliou secured the victory.

Halas Hawks U14 2
Old Wulfrunians U14 5

Halas started slowly and never recovered. Goals were scored by Connor Fisher and Shane Billingham.

Halas Hawks U18 4
Phoenix U18 2

The deadlock was broken by a Kieran McIlduff header which gave the Under-18s the lead going into the break.

A goal early in the second half by Alex Chappel should have seen Halas coasting.

However, Phoenix threatened a scare by pulling the game back to 2-1 before goals from Adam and Danny Hodges made the hosts deserved victors.

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SPORT

Big smash
New accolade for tennis ace Whiley
Page 39



Flying Ryan
Young Hawks keeper is man of the match
Page 39

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Arshad grabs the vital winner

Lincoln Utd 1
Halesowen Town 2

HALESOWEN moved into eighth position in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier Division One South with a deserved win after fighting back from a goal down.

A scrappy start saw the Yeltz fall behind on 24 minutes when they failed to clear the ball from a long throw. George Zuerner's shot was well saved by Paul Evans, but the striker put away the rebound.

Ten minutes later, Halesowen were level when Nathaniel Caine's inswinging corner was headed past Lincoln goalkeeper Phil McGann by his team-mate Liam Bull.

McGann was picking the ball out of the net again minutes later. Ben Haseley dispossessed a defender and the keeper was slow to react, leaving Naveed Arshad an easy chance to put Halesowen 2-1 up.

The visitors bossed parts of the second half, with the constant running of Haseley and Jean-Michel Guyes causing problems but Lincoln almost equalised on 62 minutes when Terry Fleming saw his shot bounce back off the bar.

Bull completed a miserable afternoon when he was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Halesowen will have to do without midfielder Gavin Winsper for a few weeks after he was withdrawn at half-time with a hamstring injury.

Marvellous Marvin form

Coventry Sphinx 1
Gornal Athletic 8

STRIKER Marvin Nisbett grabbed four goals as Gornal blasted their way into the third round of the FA Vase.

Sphinx keeper James Connelly saved Chris Rabone's penalty before Nisbett hit a first half hat-trick and a minute before the break, Calum Martin headed in.

Eight minutes into the second half Rabone crossed for Nisbett to net.

A lapse of concentration in defence let Harry White score for Sphinx before Gornal substitute Ravi Sangha's neat control and finish restored the five-goal lead.

On 80 minutes Ricky Nicholls' neat touch played in Kieron Bennett to score and five minutes from time, Nicholls lobbed in the eighth.

Solid performances by senior club swimmers

Halesowen Swimming Club

HALESOWEN Swimming Club senior swimmers put in solid National League performances.

At Redditch in the first round they were third out of six and at Nuneaton in round two were fourth – six points behind third-placed Long Eaton.

Competition is tough and Halesowen battled well throughout both events.

At Redditch, after 25 events, the gala had settled into a pattern with Halesowen a comfortable third place. Despite a storming finish, they were unable to improve further.

Individual wins were hard to come by and the team had a long wait before two arrived almost at once. India Hanke took event 27, the breaststroke, and James Cuthbert won the very next race on the same stroke.

Within the next 10 events, Halesowen pulled off three freestyle victories through Chloe Finch, Mark Laing and Ben Meakin.

The boys' 11 and under medley relay team, including Jack Simpson and Euan Vaughan-Hawkins, won their event with the girls' open team taking the penultimate freestyle relay. They featured Eliza Bradley, Sian Carey, Sophie Page, Lilian Parsons and Rebecca Spoor.

Result: City of Coventry A 235pts, Redditch 216, Halesowen 190, Calverton & Bingham 144, Wolverhampton 134, Shrewsbury 130.

The second round, at Nuneaton, also provided a stern test. The competition was every bit a tough as was expected and after the opening relay events Halesowen found themselves battling for third spot.

By the halfway mark the team had fallen behind the pace by some 11 points but clawed this back to a six-point gap with 10 events remaining.

However, despite some battling performances the swimmers were unable to close the gap further on Long Eaton.

They had to settle for fourth place overall on the night.

Ben Meakin was the star of the show and won both of his individual freestyle and butterfly events.

Mark Laing also won the 100m freestyle.

The age 11 and under boys relay team were on form and won both freestyle and medley events with the team including James Cuthbert, Jack Simpson and Euan Vaugan-Hawkins.

Result: City of Coventry A 237pts, Leicester Penguins A 229, Long Eaton 174, Halesowen 168, Leek 140, Chase 101.

JESS BOUNCES BACK FROM HEARTACHE

HALESOWEN'S star cyclist Jess Varnish claimed gold and silver as she bounced back from her Olympic heartbreak.

Varnish, a member of Halesowen Cycling Club, partnered Becky James to victory in the Track World Cup in Glasgow.

The 21-year-old and her new team sprint partner won the final in their best-ever time of 33.428 seconds.

They saw off their Spanish rivals by 0.7 sec to bag Britain's first gold medal of the meeting.

Cycling

The win put Varnish back on track after she and the now-retired Victoria Pendleton were disqualified from the same event at London 2012 when they looked set to challenge for gold.

Bromsgrove-based Varnish said: "It's definitely going to be hard without the older and more mature riders, but as you've seen we're doing pretty well.

"It's really good to be back on the podium.

"It's a bonus to be doing it in front of our home crowd."

Strong

Varnish later took silver and James bronze in the individual sprint.

Varnish won their semi-final 2-1, but Germany's Kristina Vogel of Germany proved too strong in the final and took gold with a 2-0 victory.

Welsh rider James, 20, saw off Hong Kong's Lee Wai Sze to take the bronze.

"It was good," said Varnish. "It's nice to be actually in a final.

"I just want to be able to step it up another level now. I'm not in the best shape, so I've not played all my cards.

"It's really nice to gain experience at the moment and build on to the Worlds (in Minsk in February)."

Varnish rounded off her Glasgow campaign with fifth place in the keirin.

Strikers hit target in battle

Girls League
Halas Hawks U15 5
Hasbury Rangers U15 4

HALAS opened the scoring early but the visitors battled back to lead 3-2 at the break in this top of the table clash.

Then it was Halas's turn to strike, leading 5-3 before Halas got one back.

Amy Blakemore hit a treble, Kayleigh Pomfret scored and there was a first league goal for Ally Thompson.

Halas Hawks U17 4
Withymoor U17 1

The Under-17 girls got back to winning against hard-working Withymoor.

Withymoor led midway through the first half but pressure saw Halas 2-1 up at the break through Lara Yarnall and Zoe Tidman.

Player of the match Gemma Stokes got two good goals in the second half.

More Hawks – Page 39

Father and son honoured for loyalty to the Yeltz



Roger Turner, left, and his son David, second right, receiving their free travel tickets and bottle of champagne from Halesowen Town manager John Hill and fans' representative Gary Willetts, right, at The Grove ground

A FATHER and son have been honoured for not missing a Halesowen Town home or away game for 20 years.

Roger and David Turner have seen 1,060 Halesowen Town games since the 1992-93 season – and admit that it has become "a bit of an obsession".

The pair, who live in Tipton, have travelled thousands of miles and experienced plenty of highs and lows as they followed the Yeltz's progress.

They help with upkeep of the club's Grove stadium in Old Hawne Lane with other fans and have been thanked by bosses for helping keep the club going in recent tough financial times.

They originally supported Albion but Roger, aged 73, says he decided to start watching Halesowen "for a change" in 1985.

He took along David, now 41, and, at first they went to a handful of away games but, by 1992, going to see the team play had become a weekly habit.

Their highlights include seeing the team reach the FA Vase final at Wembley in 1986 and travelling to FA Cup ties at Cardiff and Brentford.

The furthest they have travelled is the 500-mile round trip for a league game in Truro two years ago – which the Yeltz lost 6-0.

And in January 1995 they set off on the 200-mile journey to Gretna FC in the FA Trophy.

It ended as a 1-1 draw, and they were rewarded for their efforts as Halesowen won the replay 4-1 at home.

Roger, married to wife Marlene for 48 years, says he has never had to miss a family event for his team but admits it has taken "a lot of commitment".

He and David were presented with a bottle of champagne on the pitch before the recent home match against Hucknall Town and were given free travel to the match at Lincoln which Halesowen won 2-1.

Win sets up clash at top end of league

Tamworth 1 Old Halesonians 2

OLD HALESONIANS men's hockey firsts dominated and were unfortunate not to score more goals.

They came back from one down for three points to go second in the table – a point ahead of Finchfield who will be visiting next week.

Although defender Mark Curzon was hurt in the warm-up, Hales started well with their usual high tempo.

However, it was Tamworth who got the only goal of the half, taking advantage of a defensive error.

Hales remained patient in the second half and got their reward following a string of penalty corners as Tom Durnford drag-flicked the ball past the Tamworth defence to bring Hales level.

This proved to be the turning point.

Tamworth fought to keep the visitors at bay, but their dominance in possession and territory led to a number of chances.

It was Chris Hill who grabbed the winner, firing the ball past the Tamworth goalkeeper to prompt celebrations from his side.

More hockey – Page 39

Schools taught a tough lesson

Halesowen & Stourbridge U15 1
Wolverhampton U15 5

THE home side were undone in the second half after taking the lead in the first period through Steven Carr.

Rory Harrison equalised before the break in this West Midlands District Schools clash. Wolves went clear with strikes from Djioffre Mpoyi, Kane Lewis, Billy Morgan and an own goal.

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